

## **1985-86**

Bob Tye was inducted as President. He managed Lambie Real Estate in Oakleigh and had the pleasure of having a new club in the area chartered which shared the boundaries of Oakleigh and Clayton. This was a direct flow on from 1984 President Russell Lloyd's good work and occurred eighteen months after the first Probus in Clayton was chartered.

Clayton was still not exactly flush with members with 27 total, so there was some opposition to another club being formed in the area, however Bob pressed on. A Charter was granted to Huntingdale on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1985 with 20 members and was presented by DG Ted Shaw to Huntingdale President Tom Kendell at Camelot November 7<sup>th</sup> 1985. The guest speaker was Peter McPhee the Executive Vice President of Jaycees. History has proved it a good decision as it did not affect our club membership and creating it extended the work of Rotary in the area.

Clayton celebrated its 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in the company of the District Governor Ted Shaw, the Mayor of Oakleigh and the President of the Rotaract Club, Richard Simmons. The club held a 21<sup>st</sup> year wine bottling day at the Goldspinks home with four varieties bottled but wastage was not recorded.

John Barnes in this year grabbed hold of the running of the local Red Shield appeal, put in a bit of professionalism and re-organised basically everything immediately improving returns to \$13,015 an 80% increase over the previous year. Soon the Clayton collection area topped the state for returns!

The club remained consistently midst the highest contributors per member to Rotary Foundation and also supported the Rotary Health Research Fund with a cheque for \$ 2000. Clayton hosted Larry Organ, a Foundation Fellowship awardee from USA who later married one of Bob Tye's daughters and took her to USA. Karen Skinner was sent to the Canberra Science Summer School. Plant sales and the spinning wheel realized a profit of \$ 2,300 at the Clayton Festival and PP Ray Thomas was the top golfer in the district. A Paul Harris Fellowship was awarded to Ed Allchin.

### **1986-87**

Guy Messina, a Lawyer with Portelli and Co took over our Presidency.

A \$3,365 flexopedic bed was purchased for a disabled family, Ed Allchin ran First Aid courses, and on Oct 6<sup>th</sup> Ralph Zuccaro was inducted.

A 10 Km Fun Run was organized by Tom Portelli and many members ran, we had spinning wheels at Oakleigh and Clayton festivals and great fellowship.

We bought a \$ 13,700 Toyota LiteAce van with a chair lift at the rear for a family with several disabled children.

\$5,000 went towards Polio Plus which made us the top club in the district. In all \$23,600 was spent during the year. \$14,000 was collected on the Red Shield. Awards, a Careers Afternoon was held at Clayton Tech, money sent to the House of Beatitudes in India and an examination table bought for the Clarinda Centre. Numerous fellowship nights were held, including one with World President Elect Royce Abbey and Oakleigh and Huntingdale clubs.

Five golfers went to the USA for the world golfing. Jim and Jean Cochrane and 5 other couples went on a Friendship Exchange to New Zealand. 19 members and spouses attended the Canberra conference and a seminar was run to advise people on retirement.

### **1987-88**

Another young member Ken Smale from the JC Smale Engineering Group in Nottingham led the club and continued involvement in the Oakleigh Festival and Fun Run. A high profile businessmen's luncheon aimed at boosting membership was held, we hosted a New Zealand Friendship exchange, held a Progressive Dinner and ran a wonderful Cup Eve Gala Night.

The Bulletin was fattened up by Bill Sides and made an information source and rarely went under 12 pages and raised many thought provoking issues through the year.

A visit and donation of a \$5,800 combined ventilator and anesthetic bed was made to the children's ward at the new Monash Medical Centre. Two Westall students were sponsored to camp.

A Gala Night was held at the Mechanics Institute with people in fancy dress and entertainment drawn solely from within club resources from member Russ Boon and family raised \$890.

A Progressive Dinner was held and made \$200, a street stall raised \$600 and Golf Day \$6381. The mayor's Charity Ball was split within the three local clubs and \$500 went to Polio Plus on our behalf from ticket sales.

Clayton was still heading Australasia in contributions to Rotary Foundation.

The 1988 Bi-Centennial created much historical interest and opened possibilities for unusual projects but Rotaract seemed to be in trouble generally, but not our club. They comprised 10% of the attendance at the annual Rotaract district conference!

During the year Jim Cochrane, Bob Minter, Les Sturzaker, Ray Thomas and Mayor of Oakleigh and Honorary Rotaractor Heather Norling were awarded Paul Harris Fellowships.

## **1988-89**

Ned Brown General Manager for W.L.Sides as drilling firm was President in this year and the changeover was held at the Spring Valley Golf Club with the Mayor of Oakleigh Heather Norling and DG Elect Ray Adams attending. Foundation Awardee Jackson Stewart, President of Oakleigh George Luxford, Rotaract President Peter Durrager and incoming President John Doig.

John Goldspink was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship and Kevin Beaumont, a charter member was re-inducted into the club.

Ned's aim was to end the year with 36 members, a noble but not attained desire.

Rotaract featured prominently and ran the District Rotaract conference and Youth Exchange ran again after a gap of some years. Sami Pakkala came to us from Finland and was a champion at Judo and actually represented Victoria at the championships coming second. He was a brilliant student. We also hosted 10 Japanese short term exchange students, 4 teachers and two Rotarians for two weeks! 1988 was Australia's Bicentennial so there was an undercurrent of activities related to it. A cup eve function was planned at Clayton Hall but was cancelled due to lack of support. Membership was not strong, but willing, but Clayton was not alone in having poor membership. Despite that, in conjunction with the Clayton Police, we ran a Blue Light Disco through the year at the Oakleigh Hall and 10 members play Golf against Rotaract at Warburton on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and ran the Mitchell Sutherland golf at Kingston Heath on 18<sup>th</sup> October. We were still very big in golf then.

In November we ran the spinning wheel at the Oakleigh festival for two days, and the Fun Run on the 20<sup>th</sup> then on November the 26<sup>th</sup> the Clayton Festival followed by a children's Christmas party at Charles Taylor's home at Piercedale.

\$ 1000 was raised at a party at Tom Portelli's home and we financed two wheelchairs for McCullough House and held a Christmas function there on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

The year will be especially remembered as one of fine fellowship with a visit also to Ned's Beach House at Peterborough.

Howard Pagdin passed away from Cancer on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Kevin Beaumont was proposed for District Governor but was beaten by Neil Harrison.

Polio Plus was a big push in the district, Clayton was in the top 5 clubs for district contributions overall with \$ 8323.50 total, not bad for a small club! The District Conference was at Morwell hosted by our host club Oakleigh.

Membership got as low as 16, blamed mainly on recession but the Rotaract Club were reported as needing no help, they were doing better than us! The club however donated \$5000 to "Rainbows for God's Children", a group who assisted youths before they got into trouble.

## **1989-90**

Seamus Moloughney was a very Irish taxi driver known for having the best cab in the Clayton and took office at the changeover night at Huntingdale Golf Club. Perhaps because of his job, he was very aware of Clayton's needy and brought a deep concern for care of the aged and needy to the club.

Some stalls were taken at Oakleigh's Trash and Treasure to raise funds. Seamus arranged a Christmas party for the elderly at McCullough House, a home for the aged and ran projects to raise fund to buy a Toyota Li Ace with lift to support a family with severely handicapped children who shunned Government handouts. Several other needy families were assisted during the year in lesser ways. We also sent two students to the Rotary Adventure in Citizenship in Canberra.

Ladies were always very heavily involved in Clayton Rotary but this year was also when Ladies were first able to be admitted to Rotary and that soon occurred with two ladies Jean Cochrane and Lana Hutchinson being inducted in the club's 25<sup>th</sup> year but Charter Member Ray Thomas passed away late in November.

Clayton hosted the 12<sup>th</sup> Australian Rotary Gold Championship between February 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, a huge undertaking. Registration fee was \$240 per player but it also included a banquet and had 141 players, about half from interstate. Profit was \$7,000.

Rotaract were on fire almost with 33 members and 5 more in the pipeline and was the largest club in the district.

PDG Fred Hay presented Clayton with a scroll on Clayton attaining \$500 per member to Rotary Health Research Fund. Clayton was only the second club in Australia to receive such an award.

## **1990-91**

Ralph Zuccaro an Optician was pretty new to Rotary but full of enthusiasm. Club membership was weak so a vote was put to change to a breakfast meeting but was defeated 12 against 6 for and one soon after was lost too for a change to an evening meeting, 6 for and 8 against.

One of Ralph's early ideas was to restore an old car and raffle it off as there were many members with appropriate skills to restore old cars. After a few sports cars were looked at, one in particular a Jaguar XK 120 seemed to have no steel left in its body anywhere, the idea was quietly shelved, however, that was a tiny low in a very high year.

Building on Seamus's work the Never Too Old for Christmas name was coined by Ralph and event was extended to other nursing homes in the Clayton area. It has since continued as one of our largest community efforts. Many of the elderly attending spoke no English and had not been out of the home for a year or more. Having an old lady grab your hand and mutter words of thanks in whatever language she had moves even the toughest of hearts.

Clayton joined with Huntingdale, with Kevin Beaumont as inaugural Chairman, for setting up the first RYPEN camp in the district with Huntingdale hosting it. A lot of committee leg work and almost half the students came from Clayton. The club has continued its support every year since. A repeat of last year's Cup Eve weekend was held at Ned Brown's beach house at Peterborough and was huge fun. Oakleigh's Centenary was celebrated by giving free sausages to the public.

Bill Sides and John Barnes received unexpected Distinguished Service Awards from Neil Harrison and Richard Simmons attended the World Rotaract Conference at the Gold Coast and Clayton Rotaract held the Rotaract District Conference at Campaspe Downs with 140 attendees. They also won the raft race on the Yarra and began the year with 28 members but feared it may be just 16 by year end. They shared in district's Dial a Santa which raised \$ 25,000!

A major first was induction of the first two ladies into our club on 15<sup>th</sup> April. Jean Cochrane with the Classification of Manufacturing Clothing and Lana Hutchinson Nursing Home Management.

Michael Ellinger was Rotaract President and 11 new Rotaractors were inducted. Long time Club Secretary Charles Taylor died on the 20<sup>th</sup> January and Bill and Dianne Sides hosted Cathie Best, a Canadian GSE team member.

At year end AIDS research at Fairfield received \$ 2,000 and the Clayton Arts Council \$250 and Bill Norling received recognition of 20 years perfect attendance.

## **1991-92**

Ray Issacs took the collar of office at Isola Belle Receptions in Clayton. He headed the local Salvation Army corps, but, as so often happens with them, was moved up country mid year so the second half of the year was presided over by Kevin Beaumont. On July 22<sup>nd</sup> Bill Sides urged Sgt fines to be upped to \$1. No offers for Bulletin Editor were forthcoming so Ray produced the first few. Robert Darlington, the Manager of Westpac in Clayton, was inducted on 22<sup>nd</sup> July and on August 19<sup>th</sup> Tim Simpson was inducted into the club. He was Manager of Waverley Credit Union in Clayton. On 16<sup>th</sup> March John Farquison from the Salvation Army was inducted and on August the passing of PDG Tom Sides was recorded. Kevin Beaumont, at the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, lamented the fact the club had not approached him for membership when he moved his business from Morwell to Clayton.

PP Kevin Beaumont stood in and completed the 91-92 year but before he left, Ray had instigated a clean up Clayton Station programme where on 24<sup>th</sup> August and September 7<sup>th</sup> gross graffiti was cleaned off and painted out. Dulux supplied the paint. The station had not looked so good in many years and amazingly, remains in a good state today. It was a small project that was appreciated, got a lot of media coverage and a certificate of appreciation. It was a show of Rotary caring. On 28<sup>th</sup> October TV personality Kevin Heinze spoke on gardening.

Ray made the front page of the Oakleigh-Springvale Times when he played the trumpet at our Never Too Old for Christmas function in 35 degree temperatures. Clayton businesses pitched in \$600 towards the food and drink.

The club hosted the GSE team from South Carolina on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Clayton hosted the second RYPEN camp, this time doing the catering too with Ralph Zuccaro and Tom Portelli stirring huge pots of spaghetti etc. Richard Simmons, now a Rotary member was seminar leader. RYPEN has never looked back and Bill Sides proudly presented a video of it at the District Conference.

A fireside chat meeting was held at Bill sides' home, Amstel Primary School was given money, reading glasses and rent arrears paid to persons in Clayton.

Shane King was President of Rotaract and it rolled along nicely.

A children's Christmas party was held at the Goldspink ranch, mock interviews at Wellington High School and \$ 20,000 collected for the Red Shield appeal. Membership was just 17 at year start, 4 were inducted and 1 lost, a 17 ½% increase.

Three wheelchairs were provided to the Clarinda Centre.

At the changeover, Bill Sides, Tom Portelli and John Barnes were awarded 75<sup>th</sup> year Foundation Paul Harris Fellowships.

### **1992-93**

PP Bill Sides was the first member to be recycled as Club President, a result of poor member recruitment in prior years. He came to office with membership perilously low and in poor economic times. One of the first tasks he undertook was refitting the original 1971 St John's ambulance for a new role. The original was the first such vehicle in the state but its role had been taken over by the SES. Because the vehicle had been mothered like no other, it remained in superb condition so was refitted for sport and major event medical support, a role it continues today.

A computer swap meet was looked at and looked lucrative but was sadly shelved because of insufficient members to sustain it. The planned venue, the Springvale City Hall became the centre of a huge commercial swap meet soon after, a true lost opportunity.

Pastoral care at the new Monash Medical Centre was supported with supply of 30,000 leaflets detailing services available at a cost of \$1560. The club was also a foundation supporter of the new Ronald McDonald House with a donation of \$ 1000 for helping families with children in long term care at the hospital.

The RSL was being redeveloped for pokies so we lost our meeting venue and moved to the Spring Valley Golf Club on August 3rd. An advantage there was that if our speaker was boring we could look past them and watch players on the course.

A local trader Max Alles had a long track record of helping those in need but was left penniless and threatened with eviction from his home when his shop was burnt out and uninsured. The club pitched in physically with refitting and stocking plus \$1000 along with The Clayton Chamber of Commerce, the RSL, and Lions and got him back in business stocked up in 35 days!

The Salvation Army Project 2000 for unemployed youth had a corporate package sponsored by the club for \$500 and a wheelbarrow raffle run by the Cochrane's raised \$440.30.

The Clayton Rotaract Club was commented on as having to date spawned three group reps and run 5 or 6 district conferences! Shane King was 50% sponsored for a FAIM team trip to the Solomon's and they hosted the Rotary/Rotaract Masters Apprentice annual golf day at Olinda.

Save Water save lives was supported with a \$ 2,000 donation for each of two village drinking water supplies one near Mt Hagen and one near Rabaul, which, with matching grants amounted to \$16,000 with tools provided for ongoing work.

\$200 went to child victims of Chernobyl and \$250 for two disadvantaged students at Westall to attend the Lord Somers Camp. \$380 went towards training teachers who established a peer support programme at Clarinda Primary School and \$25,000 was collected in the Red Shield, up 25% over the previous year. Raffle ticket sales raised \$236 for the Rotary Health Research Fund and a policy of non-smoking at venues was adopted and club finances reviewed and issues corrected.

Two boys from Hailebury were sent to RYPEN and camp was run by member Richard Simmons.

The Never Too Old for Christmas function was held in the Clayton Hall.

The International Convention was in Melbourne and home hosting for 24 people was provided. There was also a big meeting at Spring Valley attended by some very high profile Rotarians in Melbourne for the Convention.

The club's Constitution and Bylaws were overhauled and incorporation updated.

Membership saw some growth and the Sgt was Les Sturzaker, famous for his dry sense of humor and endless tall tales.

The Changeover Night was held in member Tim Simpson's restaurant in Toorak.

#### **1993-4**

A former Clayton Rotaractor and District Group Rep for Rotaract, Richard Simmons, was our next President and brought youth and experience to the office. Richard was a phone technician with Telecom and had lots of fine ideas but was hobbled by low club numbers so no large project eventuated. Having the first private phone card run in Australia was investigated with cards to mark the World Conference in Melbourne, but the minimum 100,000 run and \$1/2M up front was a bit too much for us to fund!

Our Rotaract Club remained hugely successful and celebrated their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday on April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Mulgrave Community Hall with huge numbers of past members present 21 cakes cut plus a superb bulletin recording history highlights.

John Goldspink's continual badgering saw an amazing 75% attendance at the District Conference but the Red Shield collection was down 42%, a result of not being allowed to work traffic intersections.

Three teachers from Westall Secondary School were sponsored to start a peer support programme at the school.

One of the big events was a business luncheon on October 13 with State Treasurer Alan Stockdale as speaker and around 70 guests but hoped for new members did not eventuate, but it was otherwise terrific.

The Australian Rotaract Conference was held in Melbourne, Clayton Rotaractor James McCallum was conference chairman and the club huge involvement in planning it.

Clayton had 75% attendance at the Ballarat Rotary Conference. Paint your Heart Out was a Rotary initiative and an elderly ex-serviceman's man's house was painted out in a joint project with Rotaract. A potential community hall in Clayton was mooted on council supplied land but that idea seems to have quietly died.

## 1994-5

An outcome of ladies being allowed membership saw Jean Cochrane become Clayton's first and one of the first ladies to take the collar of office in our district. No stranger to Rotary, she flung herself into the low membership issue and at the first meeting had DG Max Buchanan speaking on membership. She was so successful the club ended the year with the best membership growth in the District and a Presidential citation.

Her report to the DG early in the year included having three "super" committees, it is a Family Club with wives of all members involved and that she considered Rotaract as part of her extended family with joint activities already planned.

One of the means used was to change the club from a dinner meeting to an evening meeting despite the results of prior votes she arranged trials meetings to be held at Spring Valley starting September 21<sup>st</sup>. A vote was carried to hold evening meetings permanently at the AGM on December 14<sup>th</sup> and was carried. Dire losses of members were forecast before the trial but did not happen.

No major projects beyond membership development were attempted during the year, but long term projects like the Golf Day, Red Shield Collections were continued and many small projects like a street cake stall raised \$700.

The Never Too Old for Christmas project was recognized as the most significant community project at the Australia Day breakfast and a plaque was presented.

Commitment to Rotaract was as good as ever. A drive to collect 1 and 2 cent coins was held as they were being withdrawn from circulation. Education of orphans in Indonesia, an IPAC project begun the club's first years was continued but the club discovered to its horror our Rotaract Club was terminated by RI over a \$ 20 shortfall. Angry letter writing reversed that situation.

The club hosted the GSE team from Belgium and Bill and Dianne Sides drove them around the various locations all day in two 80 year old Minerva cars, Belgian made but almost mythical in Belgium. Bill and Dianne Sides and Jim and Jean Cochrane home hosted team members and we had a special meeting with them on March 8th.

\$1200 of medical supplies was sent via Ken Smale to a children's hospital at Novotroitsk in Russia and Clayton, Oakleigh and Huntingdale had a hospitality tent at the Oakleigh Festival and ran a raffle.

Never Too Old was run in 38 degree heat!

PP Alan Fulton was directed by the board on 16/11/94 to organize a ladies Probus Club in Clayton, holding an interest meeting on May 1st and another on May 15<sup>th</sup> with Joyce Thomas the inaugural President.

Our dinner badges were changed from round metal ones to blue rectangular plastic ones.

On a sad note PP Harry Draffin passed away just before Christmas. For a long time he had paid for a full meal then sat down and ate one small pill.

Ken Smale and Jean Cochrane were awarded Paul Harris Fellowships. Kathryn Shedden and Neil Rickard were inducted on November 2nd.