

President Norm Phillips 1990-91

When I joined Rotary, I had the pleasure of meeting many outstanding individuals. Norm Phillips, for example, is one member I will never forget. Someone, I fondly referred to (after I came to know him well) as: 'Stormin Norman'.

A veteran of the Kokoda Track, I found Norm always incredibly humble of his heroic, military service. Within Rotary, even in his later years, he always appeared to me as up to date with what must change within Rotary to attract younger members to join.

Let us go back now to 1990-91, when Norm became President Norm. The theme for the year was: Honour Rotary with Faith and Enthusiasm.



During the year, President Norm undertook to assist Kangaroo Flat Rotary Club (through ROMAC) to bring a young child, Sumalota, from Fiji for urgent, remedial facial surgery. ROMAC was only a new Rotary program, but President Norm was already impressed with its overall goal of assisting people, desperately requiring urgent medical aid in Oceania, to come to Australia for surgery. Without Rotary assistance there was no medical aid available within their own country to ensure they can improve their quality of life.

During the year, President Norm encouraged members to be actively involved in the Bendigo community. For instance, members visited Mirridong (Home for the Blind) each week for the purpose of organising a 'Happy Hour' and reading the local news to residents. The Club also



provided funds for Telelink, a service which ensured 40 residents could be contacted each week by phone.

At Sternberg Lodge, a Xmas treat was organised for the residents. For Echuca Hospital, the Club organised 16 young people, with an intellectual disability, to provide a concert for all the patients. To thank the 16 performers, a picnic lunch on the Murray River in a boat was provided.

Later during the Xmas period, the same 16 young performers, entertained residents at Bethlehem Hospital.

During the year, apart from working hard for the community, the Club did have many enjoyable extra events. In July, the Club's 65th birthday was celebrated. A progressive dinner was organised in August. Old time music was enjoyed by all in September. A morning meeting was held in November to celebrate the Melbourne Cup. In February, a Social Bowls night was enjoyed by all. In April, members met at an exciting new venue, the Strathfieldsaye Club.



There were very many organisations that received funds during the year: Sternberg Lodge, Bendigo Base Hospital Special Care Baby Unit, Mirridong, ROMAC, The Rotary Foundation and a piano for the Capital Theatre were the main beneficiaries.



Internationally, a fishpond was paid for by the Club in Thailand. Its purpose was to enhance protein intake for locals to tackle the high level of malnutrition in the region.



ROTARY F.A.I.M. AUSTRALIA AN ACTIVITY OF ROTARY AUSTRALIA WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICE Ltd. (RAWCS)

During the year, we also witnessed for the first time, members of the Club were involved in a FAIM project as volunteers with Melbourne South Rotary. Members, Gary Gunnell and Hugh Wheeler both volunteered in New Guinea.

Garry and Hugh, not only briefed President Norm about the trip, but also spoke about some of the locations they visited that brought back many memories for President Norm of his time there during WW2.

DURING 1990-91, THE CLUB WAS EXPLORING OPTIONS FOR FAIM PROJECTS.



THE MELBOURNE SOUTH TEAM IN NEW GUINEA WITH GARRY AND HUGH.

The F.A.I.M. team (above) comprised, from l. to r., Vic Haste, Alan Moir, Garry Gunnell, Wayne Devlin, David Deans, Hugh Wheeler, David Grisbrook, Glenn Bradford and Neville Lee. All buildings in the second complex required work but the one pictured on the right was the least advanced. Our task was to finish them in preparation for a following team which would erect the rotunda.



Top left, the National work team and, above, Hugh with the smallest team member -



Inset: (left); Kevin Reilly, Evan Trevorah (right) David Brown.

Standing (l to r): Ted Rankins, John Cooper, Ray Paulsen, Bryan McMahon, Bill Ashby, Bill Gray.

Seated (l to r): Brian Kinross, Norm Phillips, Garry Gunnell.

Absent: Warren Loy, John Flood.