

1934-1935 George Victor Lansell

Often voted the most popular Australian film in the 1930's was the 1934 film: *The Silence of Dean Maitland*. A film about a philandering Dean in a small sea- town who, despite being already engaged, has an affair with another woman.

The most popular film overall in 1934 was a romantic comedy with Claudette Colbert and Clark Gable in: *It Happened One Night*. The most popular song is *Moon Glow* by Benny Goodman.



A shy and retiring Rotarian with the famous name of George Lansell becomes the new President of the Rotary Club of Bendigo. President Lansell was the Newspaper Proprietor of the 'Independent' newspaper and merged it with the Bendigo Advertiser in 1918.

The elder son of Bendigo's 'Quartz King' George Lansell, George Victor Lansell served as a Captain on the front-line in France in World War 1. After being wounded in battle, George returned to Australia to recover from his injuries.

After the war, George became a Major in 1923 and Lieutenant-Colonel in 1927. He retired as an Honorary Colonel In 1942 after having organized a Victorian Volunteer Defence Corps.

Later, George would make a major contribution to returned soldiers. For example, he was President of the Bendigo sub-branch of Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League for close to 30 years.

A major philanthropist and businessperson, he also served Bendigo as an MLC for 24 years. George Lansell received a Knighthood in 1951.

Unfortunately, we have extraordinarily little documentation in our history records of President Lansell's year as President. Regardless, from Charles Alexander's records, we do know that: W.R. McKie was his Vice President, G. Eathorne his Secretary, and W.A. Draper his Treasurer.



Given President Lansell was a major philanthropist, it comes as no surprise to learn from Charles Alexander's report that the Toddler's Home, the Mayoress Blanket Appeal, the Unemployment Relief Fund and Boy's Employment Movement all received significant funds at this time.

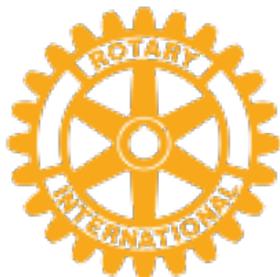
Furthermore, President Lansell shipped dressed lambs to England and other places as gifts during his year. The Rotary Club of Bristol was so thrilled with receiving a lamb they were able to raise significant funds for the Lord Mayor of Bristol' Christmas Cheer Fund. Letters of appreciation from the Rotary Club of Bristol were read at a Rotary luncheon.



Hobbies Exhibition

The Hobbies Exhibition, during President Lansell's year, was described as an enormous success with significant numbers of young people attending.

President Lansell invited 100 guests at a Rotary Meeting on May 2nd from the Education Department and local schools who had assisted with the Hobbies Exhibition to formally thank them for their involvement.



Rotary
Club of Castlemaine

Despite recent debate in the past few years about whether the time was right to extend Rotary in the District, the Rotary Club of Castlemaine was Chartered during President Lansell's year as President. Both Ballarat and Bendigo had been instrumental with forming the new Club.