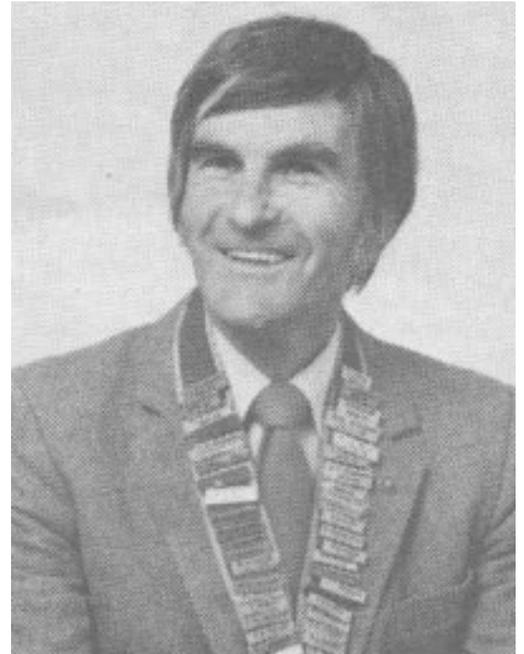


President Ray Paulsen 1982/83

John Cain jnr. wins government in Victoria. The Franklin Dam is a major topic of debate in Australia and Lindy Chamberlain is committed for trial for the death of her daughter, Azaria. Argentina invades the Falkland Islands.

I first met Ray when I joined Rotary. Everytime I asked Ray regarding how he was, his response was always: marvellous, could not be better! In all the years I have been a member of the Club, no member has ever demonstrated more enthusiasm about Rotary than Ray. Within his business, which involved selling photocopiers, Ray tried to convince every business person he met to join Rotary. Ray introduced many of our members to Rotary.



When Ray became President in 1982, the theme for the year was: Build Bridges of Friendship Throughout the World. I could not think of a more appropriate theme for Ray. His whole Rotary life was devoted to doing just that. It was also the year when the Club joined the new District of 980.

To President Ray, this meant adapting and implementing new ideas.

With Ray's infectious positive nature of Rotary, there were 15 Rotary inductions during the year. Among them, were Domenic Coia, Brian Doherty, Bryan McMahon and Kevin Reilly, who all became long term, committed Rotarians. President Ray ensured they all understood what was required of being a Rotarian and he encouraged each new member to attend Rotary Information Nights where 13 cassette tapes were played.

Members were encouraged to ask President Ray or other long term Rotarians as many questions as they like. The feedback from the sessions was very positive.

The Axedale Camp underwent major improvements during President Ray's year. For example:

- The Club paid for renovations to the first bunk house and for the cost of plumbing connected at a cost of \$9,400.
- The second bunk house also renovated, insulated, and painted at a cost of \$4,000.
- A new and modern Flying Fox replaced the old rope one at a cost of \$1400.
- Reserve tanks of drinking water increased.
- A Furphy tank purchased to provide fire protection and water trees.
- A new gas barbecue and improved lighting for \$400.



During the year, President Ray made a conscious decision not to focus on what the Club achieved within his year, but rather - what the Club had planned.

The Bulletin provided all members with every activity taking place currently and there were also regular features to create more interest from readers. The editorials were also of such a high quality that the District awarded the Club with the best Bulletin in the District for 1982/83!



President Ray, Past President John Cartwright, and Dennis Potter undertook a presentation at the District Conference about: Building Bridges in your District and Your Community – The Premier Town of Bendigo. The presenters received wonderful feedback of the quality of the presentation from all District Committee members and those that attended.

All present members would have at some time looked at the list of students from overseas that were hosted by our Club, and also the students that were sent overseas. At the end of President Ray's year, Ray presented the Club with an honour board of all students (incoming and outgoing) over the past 21 years.



During the year, apart from the Axedale Camp, other funds were distributed to many charitable causes. For example, the Bushfire Appeal, the YMCA and the Rotary Foundation.

