

## Len L. Dungey 1941/42

The Japanese attack Pearl Harbour, December 1941.

Japanese aircraft bomb Darwin, Feb. 1942.



I can only imagine how Australians felt in 1941/42. German stormtroopers had swiftly cut their way across Europe and North Africa appearing to be invincible. Their ally, Japan attacked Pearl Harbour inflicting major damage on the U.S Pacific fleet. And then Japan, again without any warning, attacked Darwin with approximately 240 aircraft.

The Wolf Man, Citizen Kane and High Sierra were popular films in 1941. In the Mood, by Glenn Miller and Joe Ross, was a popular song in Australia.

On October 1, 1941, Len L. Dungey does not hesitate to step up to be President of our Club.

President Dungey did everything he could to focus on fellowship at meetings. It was customary practice at the time that members sang a community song at meetings with a great deal of enthusiasm to engender comradery.

Regardless, during his year, President Dungey instructed the fellowship committee to observe where members sat and if they were always welcoming and



friendly with all members joining their table.

Furthermore, another initiative President Dungey introduced was the idea of Round Table committee meetings at weekly luncheons.

Such changes proved to be successful and of benefit to all members.

With the War now on Australia's doorstep, President Dungey focused on everything possible to raise funds for the War effort. For example, the Club raised 156 pounds from fund-raising (and individual donors) for the Red Cross Prisoner of War Fund to assist three prisoners of war.



Despite the War, the Essay Competition continued during the year for Youth Week. This year, the topic was: 'How could conditions be improved for the youth in the nation' (for senior students). And, 'Why is Australia a good place in which to live' (for junior students).

Winners were invited to a Club luncheon to receive their prizes.

During Youth Week, Rotarians provided updates of all events on local radio stations 3BO and 3CV.

Along with the Bendigo Advertiser, the local media were very generous with respect to publishing/broadcasting Rotary events.



President Dungey also did whatever he could regarding the Club supporting local community organisations:

- A birthday party was organised for all the children at St Luke's Toddlers Home.
- Members organized a musical program to entertain the children of St Aiden's Orphanage. Members also provided free sweets and peanuts.
- The Club provided transport for 'After Care' children that were patients of Bendigo Base Hospital to attend a picnic.

With U.S officers and soldiers now camped in Bendigo; the Club welcomed U.S officers to a Club meeting. A U.S military band performed at the luncheon to demonstrate their appreciation of Rotary's hospitality.



Inner Wheel were continually active during the year, with not only organising card nights to raise funds to support the War effort, but also with supporting local community members affected by the War.



President Dungey was very appreciative of their work and expressed his admiration of their efforts in the Annual Report.

Apart from the 156 pounds provided for Prisoners of War, more than forty-one pounds went to local organizations. For example: School Welfare. Club Ward, HMAS Sydney Fund, Food for Russia, Salvation Army, and Bendigo Base Hospital.



ON SERVICE.—The Board is proud to list among its honorary members the following Rotarians who are on Service: Rotarians M. Jacobs, A.I.F.; A. M. Bush, A.I.F.; W. H. Porteous, R.A.A.F.; J. Barton, R.A.A.F.; G. Eathorne, A.M.F.; R. E. Giudice, A.M.F.; and F. G. Burgess, A.M.F. To each we offer our congratulations, with an earnest wish for a happy sojourn and a speedy return, and record our appreciation accordingly.