

Andrew Hampton 2009-2010

In 2009, Andrew Hampton became the President of our Rotary Club. Despite managing a large business with his wife, Heather, Andrew undertook the role with an abundance of enthusiasm and commitment. President Andrew did not undertake to do something many Presidents always feel compelled to do, to make changes for the sake of doing things differently.

Andrew obviously gave much thought to the role and decided to reinforce what the Club does well and if the need arises, slightly tweak a few things to ensure the Club functions even more efficiently.

In September 2009, a Tsunami hit Samoa killing 149 residents and some villages were destroyed with 22 metres of waves hitting the coast and residents' cars being swept out to sea.

President Andrew did not hesitate to support the introduction of an Apprenticeship Award with a difference. Worthy apprenticeship candidates were encouraged to nominate for an Award to assist the Club with our volunteer work in Samoa. The Club would cover their travel and accommodation costs.

The whole experience would have significant benefits for the personal, emotional growth of the candidate.

The successful applicant would not only experience a completely different culture but would be helping a whole community at a time when it has only very recently experienced its worse tragedy in its history.

The Bendigo Christmas Carols has become an integral part of Xmas for many people in Greater Bendigo. It first started in 1970, and in all those years it has surprisingly never had a



'major' sponsor. For the first time in its history, under President Andrew's leadership, this all changed. The Club could now look forward to the Community Carols gaining even more prominence in the community of Bendigo's social calendar with the whole event being sponsored.

President Andrew, in the Annual Report stated: 'Strong friendships are the icing on the cake for the 'Service above Self' attitude.' Andrew did not disappoint in his year with all the fellowship events.



For example, I will never forget the fabulous river cruise and dinner members all enjoyed on the Maribyrnong River. Also, the enjoyable gathering members attended at the Bickley's Barn.

The Great Penna Breakfast became an extra special social event, when President Andrew decided where all funds raised from the breakfast would be donated. Andrew decided that funds would be donated to purchase a modified tricycle for a young child with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia.

Just a sample of some of the other donations during Andrew's year were:

- \$5000 was donated, from the Club's Contingency Funds, to assist resident affected by the 'Black Saturday' disaster.
- At a Club meeting, President Andrew formally acknowledged all members of the Club with 50 years-service with either a Sapphire, or Paul Harris Fellow. (Note: With each acknowledgment, \$1,000 U.S is donated to The Rotary Foundation).
- Donations given during the year (and in previous years) to the Shelter Box project assisted with the distribution of Shelter Boxes for the first time to Victorian communities.
- Righteous Pups, the Bendigo Resource Centre and the Bendigo Youth Choir all were recipients of the funds raised at the Swap Meet.