

1952-1953 Earnest A Cambridge

In 1952, the most popular film was: The Greatest Show on Earth with Betty Hutton, Dorothy Lamour, James Stewart and Charlton Heston. The film is based around a circus and the dramatic lives of trapeze artists, a clown and an elephant trainer. The most popular song was 'Blue Tangle' by Leroy Anderson.

The President of the Rotary Club of 1952 was Ernest Cambridge. President Cambridge immediately announced his idea of a Wishing Well to raise money for Senior Citizens.

A change occurred for Rotary when the Rotary year ended in June. Consequently, President Cambridge only had a term of 9 months.



Bendigo's Mayor and Mayoress bestow the first good wishes in the Lillian Hesse well, watched by President's Wife, Past President Cr. Norman Oliver and Mrs. Oliver and President.

Well is in selected stone, and bronze inscription around top reads, "May You Wish Well — May You Live Well" All proceeds go to Senior Citizens.



The Board undertook to install 2 signs during the year on the entrance to Bendigo from both Echuca and Melbourne.



A proposal was put forward during the year to add new buildings at the Axedale Youth Camp. The building would house new bathroom and toilet facilities. This would ensure males and females would have separate facilities when attending the camp together. A galvanised iron fence was also recommended to be built between the 2 buildings.

Furthermore, the palliasses (mattress filled with straw) at the Camp were found to be in poor condition and needed to be maintained. The Board recommended that after each camp the straw inside them be destroyed and replaced with new straw.

A Christmas treat was provided for 50 deserving children in Bendigo and the wider District. Inner Wheel provided a party tea at the Axedale Camp.



Community Library today. In 1955 the original Library opened.

Immediate Past President, Norman Oliver worked hard during the year with assisting obtain a Grant and Plans for the original library which was built over the Civic Buildings.



President Cambridge (with IPP Oliver's assistance) organised a Picture Night for deserving children being assisted by a local charity.

Moving pictures were also shown to the Chalet TB residents at Bendigo Hospital.

A special Awards Night was organized with the Bendigo School of Mines to acknowledge the graduation of local apprentices in the community.

The mayor attended the event to personally congratulate each apprentice on their achievement.

The Hobbies Exhibition was held at the School of Mines building during the year.



3BO radio broadcast Vocational talks held at Club Luncheons during the year. One address was by Harold Bedgood from the Melbourne Rotary Club. Harold spoke about Vocational Service. The responsibilities of every Rotarian in their profession. Most importantly, to be an example by always being fair and honest with customers. ***A copy of the talk is in our history records.***

The Club arranged with the Department of External Affairs for Asian students studying in Australia, under a U.N. scheme, to be invited for a week in Bendigo.

The students were provided accommodation at the Youth Camp and at the homes of Rotarians.

The purpose of the visit of students was to increase international understanding.



For the very first time, thanks to the sponsorship of member, Jack Barton, the Club decided to donate to the Rotary Foundation. The Club has continued to donate to the Rotary Foundation every year since.

Other highlights during the year:

- A group of Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Melbourne attended one of our luncheons.
- Members were invited to meet the International President, H. J. Brunnier, in Melbourne.
- Club Newsletters were given to Rotarians rather than posted.
- 4-Way Test plaques were given to members.
- Greetings and information about our Club were recorded and sent to overseas Rotary Clubs.



A considerable amount of money was raised for victims of floods in England and Europe.

Other charities/organisations to receive donations were the U.N Children's Appeal, Home for the Blind, Salvation Army, Save the Children's Fund, Syd Mellis Bridge Street Mission, and The Red Cross.