

# 1946-1947 Eric Biggs

The most viewed film in 1946 was Walt Disney's: Song of the South. The most popular song for the year was Prisoner of Love by Perry Como.

The new President of the Rotary Club of Bendigo was Eric Biggs.



President Biggs did not have much time to settle in as President as the 15<sup>th</sup> District Conference was to be held within his year. A new issue quickly raised its head with respect to when and where the Club could hold its meetings. Also, the Axedale Camp was to be formally given to the Club and accommodation needed to be found for campers attending future camps.



Once permission was granted by the Minister for Land and Water Supply to occupy the Axedale property, the Club's first goal was to provide suitable accommodation for people attending the camp.

Given the War had ended, there were 3 Army huts available in Bendigo. Bendigo Council allowed the Club to purchase the huts for the Camp.

Club volunteers and members of Apex dismantled the huts and they were transported to Axedale.

Given members of the Club had generously donated a large sum of money for the Camp, the 3 huts were then reassembled by paid tradespeople at the site.



During the year there were a number of discussions between members of the Board and the management of The Shamrock. With the Club now growing in numbers, space for visitors attending meetings was becoming an issue. Also, the management of The Shamrock were keen for the

Club to change meeting days from Thursday to Tuesday, or even consider changing to night meetings.

When the proposal was put to members to change the meetings from day to night meetings, 27 out of the 50 members wanted night meetings, 21 wanted day meetings and 2 were undecided. President Eric felt it was not a significant enough majority to make the change and shelved the idea of meetings being held at night.

On the subject of meetings, President Eric was concerned with cliques forming at meetings. Also, he felt that members singing left a lot to be desired! President Eric made a recommendation that more popular songs be chosen. He felt this might result in more enthusiastic singing at meetings. With respect to the cliques, President Eric urged the incoming Board to experiment with seating arrangements to break up the cliques.

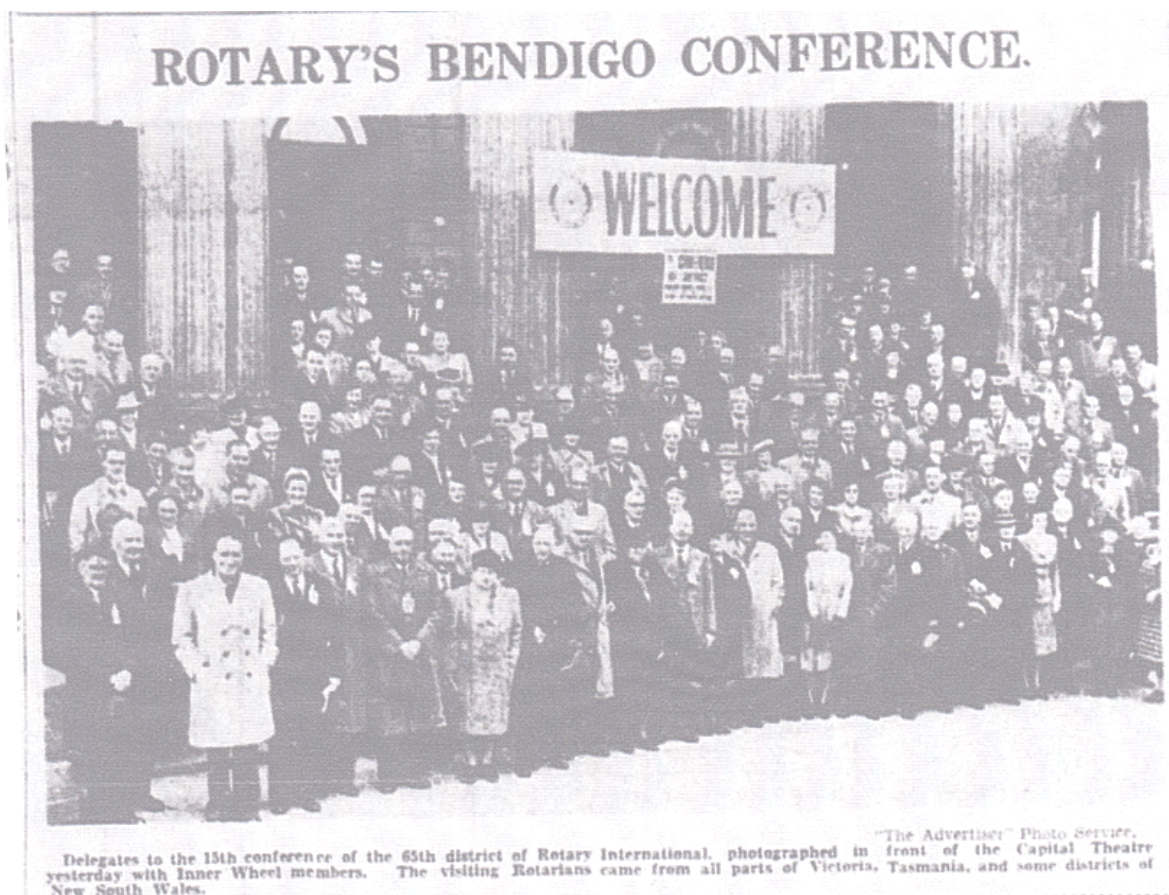


Holding the 15<sup>th</sup> District Conference was the main issue throughout the Rotary year (October 1 – September 30). Would Bendigo be able to house all of those that wished to attend the Rotary Conference in September? How many would attend the Rotary Ball on the

Tuesday? Likewise, how many guests will attend the Picture Night on the Wednesday?

Months of planning went into holding the event. Inner Wheel were invaluable with offering to provide assistance for those attending a tour of the new Axedale Camp site on the Sunday afternoon. A Church Service was also planned at the House of Friendship. Tours of Hanro Knitting Mill and Bendigo Pottery were also planned.

Business sessions were to be held on September 8 with the focus being: "Peace begins in the Minds of Men."





# Rotary Conference of 65th District opens here To-day

Rotarians and their wives from Victoria, Tasmania, and Southern New South Wales, will arrive in Bendigo to-day to attend the 15th conference of the 65th district of Rotary, which will continue throughout the week.

Bendigo has previously been the host club for a district conference when the discussions and sessions associated with it were conducted so successfully that Bendigo made a name for itself in the Rotary movement. The conference, which will commence to-morrow, should be no exception, as a carefully-planned organisation has been set by local Rotarians to cover every phase of Rotary activity as well as enjoyable social functions.

in a motor trip to Bendigo Rotary Club's youth camp at Axedale. This praiseworthy project to foster youth development has been accelerated this year by the club and the amenities and housing have been almost completed. Visitors will be delighted with this grand piece of youth service on the part of the Bendigo club. After the inspection of the camp a basket picnic provided by the wives of Bendigo Rotarians will be held. Rotarians and visitors will leave the Town Hall at 2 p.m. for Axedale.

Special Rotary services will be held in St. Paul's Church of England at 11 a.m. when the preacher will be Rotarian Canon E. H. Pickford. At 7 p.m. in Forest Street Methodist Church, Rotarian Rev. H. Clarnette will officiate. An official undenominational service will be held in the House of Friendship, when Rev. J. Edward Smith, of Bendigo, will speak on "Our Heritage." Following the church service a musical programme and supper will take place in the House of Friendship, commencing at 8.30.

The conference sessions will



**ROTARY GOVERNOR JOHN M. EDGAR.**

In the 65th district of Rotary there are 27 clubs, the greater proportion of which will be represented, bringing more than 80 visitors to the city.

To-day the visitors will arrive, and will register at the conference secretary's office, in the corner of Bendigo Town Hall. Afternoon tea will be served in the House of Friendship, which will be the main hall. A "get-together" social will be held in the House of Friendship at 8 o'clock to-night, when all visiting Rotarians and guests will join with Bendigo Rotarians and their wives in a happy social function. To-morrow Rotarians will join

deliver a special address. The Mayor of Bendigo (Rotarian Cr. G. A. Pethard) and Rotarian E. Biggs, president of the Bendigo Rotary Club, will welcome delegates at a special morning session, after which the governor will deliver an address. The official luncheon will take place in the basement of Bendigo Town Hall, when Rotarian J. A. Bradbury will be the speaker. The conference sessions will continue throughout the afternoon, and the day will finish with a special concert in the House of Friendship, arranged by the members of the Bendigo club.

Morning and afternoon sessions will again be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, with special social functions in Bendigo Town Hall on Tuesday night, and a special picture night in the Masonic Hall on Wednesday.

## Rotary Club builds Bendigo youth camp

Bendigo Rotary Club is making good progress with its youth camp project at Axedale, on the Campaspe River.

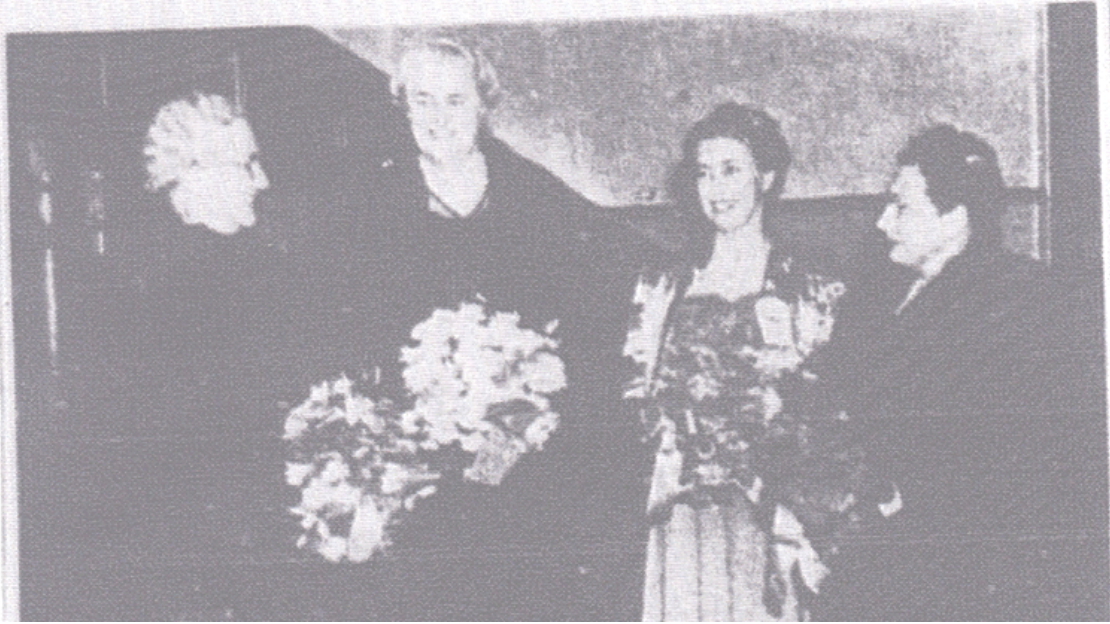
Three Army huts purchased at the Cartographic Unit Headquarters, Bendigo, were dismantled by club members on Saturday and transported to the camp site. The club is financing the establishment of the camp for local youth organisations.

The Argus, 14<sup>th</sup> July 1947



## Visitors Entertained at Rotary Ball in Town Hall Last Night

SOME attractive gowns, whose wearers came from places as far apart as Albury and Dandenong, Burnie and Benalla, were worn at the ball held last night in Bendigo Town Hall to entertain the many visitors who are here for the Rotary conference. It was a great success and a highlight of the many functions arranged in honor of the guests.



All members were shocked to hear that Paul Harris died after suffering from a prolonged illness on January 27, 1947.



## Donations for the year in Pounds, Shilling and Pence.

Food for Britain	£ 7: 2: 0
United Nations Association	2: 2: 0
Bendigo Base Hospital	3: 3: 0
Bendigo Benevolent Home	1: 1: 0
Salvation Army	1: 1: 0
Bendigo Blind Home	2: 2: 0
Uncle Tom Appeal	1: 1: 0
Deceased Soldiers Children Appeal	4: 4: 0
S. Mellis Appeal	2: 2: 0
United Nations Relief Appeal	5:12: 6
S. Mellis Appeal (Special)	8: 1: 9
Education Reform Association	5: 0
Bendigo Competitions Committee	35: 0: 0
Food for Britain Appeal Hampers	11:17: 3
Bendigo Creche	1: 1: 0
Bendigo Free Kindergarten	4: 8: 6
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