

1945-1946 George Albert Pethard

In 1945, the most popular Australian film was Harvest with Joe Valli and Harry Abdy. A film about two farmers who clash over the pros and cons of mechanical farming. The most popular film overall was The Bells of St Mary's with Bing Crosby and Ingrid Bergman. The film is about a priest and a nun who try to save a school. The most popular song in 1945 was Sentimental Journey by Les Brown.



President George Pethard 1945-1946

In 1945, the War ends, and the new President of the Rotary Club of Bendigo was George Albert Pethard. George was a former member of the British Army in India, a Produce Merchant, Service Station Owner, Soft Drink Manufacturer (Taraxale), Auctioneer, Real Estate Agent, and former Mayor of Bendigo in 1940. (He was also Mayor in 1947 and 1951). He described himself as a 'real goer.' Others described him as: getting a job done quickly. For example, to publicize and sell blocks of land in Robinvale, he chartered a train to take buyers to the site!

The Club demonstrated their appreciation of the efforts of the Australian Navy during the War, by entertaining officers and ratings (lower ranked enlisted men and women) at a Club Luncheon.

Financial support was also given to provide vocational guidance for returned service personnel.

For families of deceased soldiers, a special Xmas event was held in conjunction with Legacy.



The Club paid a membership fee to support a United Nations Association to spread goodwill and peace among members. The former League of Nations had failed and now we have the beginning of the United Nations.

At the District Conference in Lorne, member John Barton presented a paper at the Conference titled: What are the Influences Against International Co-Operation and how can they be removed?



The Chief Commissioner of Victoria was formally thanked by the Board for assisting the Club's goal of obtaining land for a Youth Camp.

To assist with building accommodation at the Youth Camp, donations from individual members were welcomed. The significant funds raised ensured the first stage of the camp could begin. All that was required now, was formal authority to take possession of the site in Axedale.



A goal for the Board was to hold an Interclub Rotary Event at Bendigo Town Hall for all 65 Clubs in the District in 1947. To attract more numbers to the event, the Club invited Australian Field Marshal, Sir Thomas Albert Blamey to be the speaker.

The Board strongly opposed the idea of RI dividing District 65 into two Districts (64 and 65). The Board urged other Clubs to protest also. Despite opposition, the 144th Meridian was used to separate the 2 Districts. The reasoning of RI was based on the excessive travelling required by the District Governor.

Support from the Board was also offered to local businesspeople to form a Rotary Club in Rochester.



With the War now over, the Club was able to focus on providing support for not only those returning from the War but also for those in a community still suffering from food shortages:

- During the year, members collected food (tin food in particular) door-to-door from residents to support the Britain Food Appeal. Apart from sending the food, the Club also sent money.
- St Aiden's Orphanage was provided with the annual treat of entertainment provided by the Club along with a musical program.
- Donations were provided to the Bendigo Hospital, Bendigo Benevolent Home, Salvation Army, Bendigo Home for the Blind and Indians Appeal.
- The Club contributed funds to support the concept of free kindergarten for children.

- A considerable amount of funds was donated to sponsor a Choral Contest.
- Many members volunteered with the Easter Fair as gatekeepers, stewards, etc.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1946

BACK ROW --B. MUNDY, A. E. MATTHEWS, D. J. L. MCCAULEY,
 J. V. SCHENCK, J. R. TREDINNICK, A. H. JONES, A. J. PERROW.
 FRONT ROW.--E. F. GRANGER, TREAS. F. E. R. BIGGS, V.P.,
 G. A. PETHARD, PRESIDENT, W. RICKARDS, V.P., R. L.
 PARKER, HON. SEC.

Meets Hotel Shamrock, Thursdays — 1 p.m.

At this time, Rotary meetings were on a Thursday. Furthermore, a new Rotary year began October 1 and ended September 30.



President Pethard's soft drink became a well-known name in Australia. In 1961, George Albert Pethard donated 5,200 pounds to build a nurse's home for the Bendigo Base Hospital.