

1955 – 1956



Many refugees arrive in Australia. The ALP split and the DLP is created. Australia is not only in a population increase explosion due to arrivals from overseas, but birth rates rise dramatically.

In the VFL, the 15-metre penalty is introduced. Interchange player, Frank Adams rushes from the bench to replace a player from Melbourne and collides with Des Healey of Collingwood. Healey nose is broken in 5 places and incurs a fractured skull. Both players are carried off the ground, unconscious. Healey never plays again. Adams goes down in history as having the shortest game time in history: 15 seconds. Melbourne wins the Grand Final by 28 points.



President Ken Hessie

With the War well behind us, President Hessie was able to focus funds again back to our young and elderly.

A good sum of money was given to assist a committee with the building of a Club for the Elderly in Bendigo (the kitchen in the Club was to be known as the Rotary kitchen).

He also focused on looking at ways to prevent our local youth drifting away from Bendigo. For example, President Hessie organised to survey what jobs were available to our local students in the community. With the help of members that were industry leaders in their field (along with interested employers outside Rotary) the Club went about to work closely at informing the youth of Bendigo and their parents of the immediate opportunities that exist within Bendigo. Apart from immediate job opportunities, they also they also looked at forecasting what jobs will be in needed into the future.

Another program that started during the year was the idea of providing a talk to senior and tertiary students about the aims of Rotary and then to explain the importance of the 4-Way Test.

During the year, Chief Justice Sir Edmund Herring and Miss Australia were two of the speakers.