

PAST PRESIDENT REMEMBERS

Warwick Johanson penned some of the highlights of his year as president in 1968-69.



In 1968, Warren and Aileen Cambridge completed their year as Mayor and Mayoress. Bob Vanstan, our Bulletin Editor, recorded, “they have had an exceedingly busy year and they have carried out their many duties with dignity, tact and vigor”.

Membership for the year was around the ninety mark; members responded with an average attendance for the year of 85.4%. Eight new members joined our ranks, two of whom were John Cartwright and Bruce Burns (father of Colin). Surviving and continuing members, in addition to Warwick, from 1968-69 are Warren Cambridge, Alan Cox, Keith Mundy, Jack Rowe, Norm Phillips and John Cartwright. Importantly, the recording of our club’s history became a large priority during Warwick’s year.

During the year, the Minister of the Army spoke at our club. Later that year, Christmas parcels were sent by members to Vietnam. Another International Project for the year involved sending books to New Guinea and providing much needed funds to a sink a new well.

Merv Monotti, father of Ian, was very well received with his talk during the year: ‘Is it the Truth? After Merv spoke to the club, 4-way test plaques were sold to several members.

For Vocational Service, sixteen speakers from the club were chosen to speak at White Hills Tech about their vocation and 180 students were transported by members to visit local industries.

The Art Show was held at Queen Elizabeth Gardens with 307 paintings on display from 101 artists. (The Art stands were made by Malmsbury Youth Centre). Winners of a club artwork school competition were also on display. School students were encouraged to produce artwork that would go on display in Japan with the support of a Japanese Rotary Club. Artwork was also sent from Japan which was displayed throughout Bendigo.

There were 651 starters for the Walkabout 26 Project held in conjunction with the Y's Men's Club of Bendigo. The major fundraiser for the year resulted in \$10,000 being donated. In a collaborative effort with the government, a grant of \$4 for every \$1 raised by the club resulted in \$33,500 being donated by the club towards the cost of \$70,000 for a new building for the sheltered workshop in Bendigo.

A camp was held during the year for 40 boys at Camp Axedale. Local school students were also encouraged to produce novel items, aprons, and other goods (in their sewing classes) to raise money for the community.

The Group Study Exchange participants from the U.S were a huge success. An exchange student from South Africa, Cecile Jones, arrived and Lorraine Vanstan was nominated as the outgoing exchange student.

Social events during the year were: Two progressive dinner parties. Each held at the homes of four Rotarians and their wives, with a course at each home which proved to be extremely popular; a great contribution by the ladies. Two picture nights: one at the Plaza and the other at the Drive In. A Dinner Dance was held at the Brolga Hotel, Lake Eppalock, shared with members of the Rotary Club of Kyneton. A Christmas Party was held at the Youth Camp with 150 members, wives and guests attending. Furthermore, Golf days were conducted by our and other clubs. And a car trial.

Warwick Johanson shared some of his memories of his year as president, below are some pictures of his year as president in 1968. Warwick wanted to particularly acknowledge the work of Aileen Cambridge as Mayoress. First pic is Warwick handing over to John Henderson for the following year and then a pic of the Walkabout 26 with Harold Griffiths, and members Harold Ross and Tom Tweed with Warwick.

