

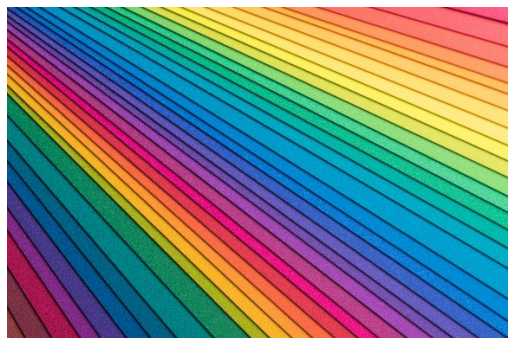
# President Ron Slattery 1979/80

The theme for President Ron's year was: Let Service Light the Way. Given it was the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rotary International, Ron's goal was to undertake a special project during his year to commemorate this very significant anniversary.



When an incoming President eventually takes the reins of the Club, normally there are no funds immediately available to fund any projects, or to donate to any charitable cause. Traditionally, larger fund-raising events do not appear until Xmas, or in the second half of the year. For example, funds received from the Xmas Carols and Easter Art Show. Consequently, President Ron decided early in the Rotary year, the community service committee (and the additional community project committee) establish ways the Club can raise extra funds early in the Rotary year.

To achieve this goal, Director Geoff McLeod, Murray Monteith (and committee members) quickly organised a Film Night, a Monster Car Raffle, and a Trotting Gymkhana to raise an impressive \$11,000 for the Rotary Club. Overall, this raised more than the record \$7,000 which was collected from the Art Show at Easter. For 1979/80, \$11,000 is a significant amount of funds to be able to fund community projects.



Bethlehem Home for the Aged, Golden City Residential Units and YMCA were just a sample of some of the many community organisations to later benefit from the hard work of the committees.

With funds now available, President Ron and Club members engaged 3 other Bendigo Rotary Clubs to join them in a joint Project to commemorate 75 years of Rotary International. Hence, with significant funds from all 4 Clubs, it was decided a Water Fountain be built. Such an attractive feature would not only be a gift to the City of Greater Bendigo residents, but also a colourful feature for visitors when they come to Bendigo.



When the fountain was officially opened, media reports noted that the crowd of over 12,000 immediately broke into applause when the fountain shot water into the air of what appeared to be red, green, yellow, and blue water forming a rainbow spectacle. It truly was a spectacular feature to commemorate 75 years of Rotary International.

Over the year, President Ron was able to access funds of \$7,500 for the completion of the Fred Marchingo Sports Complex. Consequently, Basketball and Tennis Courts were built at the Axedale Youth Camp. 10,000 young people had been hosted at the popular camp during the year.



Apart from all the fund-raising activities normally held during each year, with the extra community projects to assist with funds for this very special year, it was estimated that members had volunteered over 1,000 hours undertaking their duties to assist Rotary and the community for the year.



Apart from fundraising activities, members also assisted with the many community programs undertaken by the Club. For example, career nights and mock interviews to assist local students with their eventual entry into the work force. Seven courtesy awards and an Apprenticeship Award were presented. A special Rotary meeting was organised for residents from the Hospital for the Aged to attend.

It was without doubt an extremely busy year as President Ron detailed in the Annual Report of his appreciation for the generous support of all members during this 75<sup>th</sup> Rotary Anniversary Year.