

President Denis Potter 1984/85

Bob Hawke is Prime Minister. A dollar coin and a hundred-dollar note are both introduced to our currency. The government introduced Medicare and a jar of vegemite is the very first item electronically scanned at a checkout. It is also, sadly, the year that Aids was beginning to become a serious health problem in Australia.

Rotary International's theme for the year is to "Discover a New World of Service." President Denis took on the challenge of doing just that! President Denis looked at ways of not only introducing new ways of service, but also in successful ways where members may not have been actively involved in previously.



To discover new ways of service, Alan Dingle led a committee to find ways the Club could support Rotary Programs such as FAIM, IPAC and Interplast. These programs are all vitally important programs within Rotary's humanitarian work overseas; consequently, each program became a centre of attention for 4 months during the Rotary year.

After a former **FAIM** District Committee chair spoke at the Club, thirty-two members gave a year's subscription and thirty-four became life members. Furthermore, two members gave a commitment to join a FAIM team to New Guinea.

A fundraising function was organised with the assistance of Inner Wheel, to support an **IPAC** project in India. The project involved supporting the Rehabilitation of people living with leprosy.

Club members felt if the Club continued to support the work of Barry Cooper from Kangaroo Flat, this was adequate with respect to **Interplast**.

The work of The Rotary Foundation, led by Jack Rowe, also took on a new importance, with respect to ensuring all members to find ways to support the Foundation Group Study Exchange Team from New Mexico.

With two years of planning undertaken by President Denis, the cooperation of the Murray River Performing Group, the generous financial support from Sandhurst Building Society, and a tremendous amount of work and organisational skill from members, the famous Flying Fruit Fly Circus arrived in Bendigo in the International Year of Youth.

As a result of all those that contributed, 8,500 people witnessed two wonderful hours of entertainment from the talented, young performers.



Chair of the Axedale Youth Camp, Ian Monotti and his committee, were able to acquire: three refurbished Nissan Huts from the Ordinance Factory, one-hundred chairs, establish a children's play area incorporating a sandpit, swings, slide and climbing frame. Also, an evaporative cooler in the kitchen, a new gas hot water service and upgrading of the road into the camp.



Inner Wheel assisted with the donation of cutlery and furnishing for our new meeting room.

During the year, forty financially disadvantaged young people were able to experience a weekend at the Axedale Youth Camp.

The Club distributed \$19,000 to local and international projects. For example: Mirridong Home for the Aged, YMCA, St Luke's, St Laurence Court, Salvation Army, St Vincent De Paul, Axedale Youth Camp, IPAC, FAIM and Interplast.





Back Row: John Cartwright, David Brown, Barry Penna, Neil Burns, Garry Gunnell, Ron Rogers, Stan Quin

Front Row - Des Samson, Joe O'Sullivan, Denis Potter, Daryl Watts, Allan Thomas, Vol Moyle - Domenic Coia (absent)