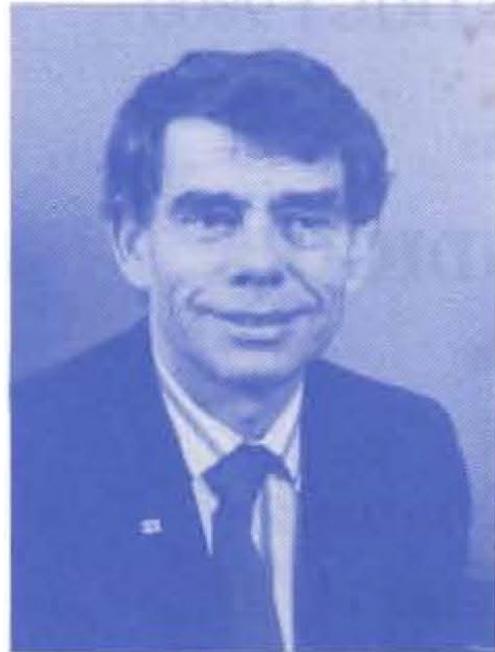


President David Brown 1991/92

Every President of our club wants nothing more than to do the very best for the overall welfare of members and the wider community. Most Presidents have told me their year as President was the very best year they have had in Rotary. On the other hand, once the year is over, most Past Presidents feel like they have become a feather duster overnight. I imagine David Brown felt no differently. I did not know David well, but one thing that stood out for me when I spoke to him, was that he was very proud of the direction he took in his year as President. I guess, David may feel the same way as many Past Presidents do: if only I had another year!



David Brown, when nominated to be President for 1991/92, began his year well before it started. David held 4 planning meetings and organised a survey to be conducted to find out exactly how members felt about Rotary. For example, what did each individual member feel were the club's strengths and weaknesses?



Furthermore, what opportunities are available for our club to pursue, and what do we need to be careful about which might threaten our very existence in the future? Having analysed the findings of the survey, David could see that members felt that there could be more emphasis on Youth, Vocational and International Services.





President David Brown, Rtn. Jim Mahoney inspecting Dale Hubbard's new small business venture. Whole Bagged Cow Manure, one of the many being supported through the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme conducted by Loddon Campaspe College of Tafe.

President Brown, when he began his year, immediately swung into action by planning with Vocational Director, Ron Poyser, and Youth Director, Hugh Wheeler, the introduction of Industry Visits, the implementation of Vocational Rewards and funding for an Information Directory for Youth. Furthermore, long term members were encouraged to speak at meetings about the member behind the badge.

Along with the assistance of International Director, Gary Gunnell, President David undertook the opportunity of a matching grant from District to assist financially (along with other Rotary clubs) with the development of an international training centre in India. The club also hosted a GSE team from Florida along with Bendigo South. Furthermore, the club began to become interested in undertaking a FAIM project in Samoa, rather than in Papua New Guinea, which proved difficult to undertake with the political unrest. Medical aid to the value of \$2,200 was provided to Fiji after a fundraising night with prominent guest speaker, Lindy Chamberlain.



A later survey found that club members now had felt the club had the right balance with respect to Youth, Vocational and International Service.

During the year, President David welcomed 16 new members to the club and another 13 were pending at the end of his year.

Importantly, President David welcomed women into the club and ensured all new members were made to feel very welcome.

Two members nights were held to provide an opportunity for all new members to mingle and be able to ask questions about the club from long term members.



With a focus on members during the year, as a result, attendance for the year improved dramatically.

The Axedale camp raised \$59,000 in camp fees before costs. As a result, \$21,000 was provided for: a replacement tractor, future funding for planned major drainage and an observatory.



Ecumenical Service at the outdoor chapel, Axedale Youth Camp, December 1991.

Other major recipients of funds during the year were The Salvation Army with \$11,000 towards the cost of a 12-seater bus. The Rotary Foundation received over \$7,000, Mirridong Home for the Blind over \$5,000, Noah's Ark Toy Library received \$6,000 and \$4,000 was donated to Bendigo Youth Choir.



Women enter men's domain

WHEN Ros Bradbury, Valerie Broad and Denise Price were invited to join the Bendigo Rotary Club, it was because they were leaders in their respective fields and the club's membership was falling.

All three saw it as breaking ground for women. Although accepting women is not new on the international Rotary scene, it definitely is for Bendigo.

Valerie Broad, Bendigo Youth Choir director, had already established a link with Rotary as the recipient of the Paul Harris Fellowship two years ago.

She works for the disabled and was involved in the setting up of Sternberg Lodge respite care during the International Year of The Disabled in 1981.

She said: "We received a lot of support from Rotary that year. They made a commitment to raise \$40,000 for us."

"When you are working on community projects that sort of assistance is something you really need."

Ros Bradbury, principal of the Bendigo Special Developmental School, was pleased to join Rotary as she could see definite advantages in keeping people informed of the school's goals.

Bendigo Rotary now has the benefit of a feminine touch. DIANA MacFADYEN reports

She hopes to be able to play a role in making Rotary aware of the plight of women in special need. But she sees her work for Rotary as a two-way street.

"In general fundraising, I am sure I will make contacts that will help us (the school) as well," she said.

Denise Price is used to working in a predominantly male world as assistant director of industrial programs at Technical and Further Education.

Surprised

As a trained hairdresser and examiner, she admits to being surprised at how easily she has been accepted.

"They consider my viewpoint. I guess it depends a lot on yourself," she said.

Valerie said: "It don't think any of us are militant feminists in any way. They (Rotarians) will get a broader view."

Although work is an important part of life for these women, they all admit to being family orientated.

Ros and husband, John, have a two-year-old daughter, Elspeth. Denise gets support from husband, John, and two daughters, Dana, 19, and Hayley, 15.

Valerie, with husband Lloyd, seems to have adopted the world's children as her own. Her organisational ability during last year's Carols By Candlelight is a testimony to her interest in promoting music for everybody, especially the young.

Denise sees Rotary as an opportunity for her to give back something to the community. Although her in-

terests cover a wide range, the initial focus will be the Rotary vocational awards.

When you look at the career credentials of these professional women, you could be excused for thinking they'd have little in common with the grass roots rural community.

Valerie is quick to point out that she married an ex-farmer and her grandfather ran a market garden at Daylesford. Denise says she grew up on a dairyfarm at Noorat near Mortlake.

Ros is the only one that is a "townie". She was brought up at Lockington, a small country town between Bendigo and Echuca.

The women say that by and large they have been welcomed into the club.

"I think we are the beginning of a new trend," Ros said.



Denise Price (left), Valerie Broad and Ros Bradbury (right) see themselves as pioneering women of Rotary. Picture: FIONA HAMILTON



Past President Norm Phillips and President Elect Bryan McMahon digging in at the working bee at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Clubrooms.



President David Brown with Paul Harris Fellows Jean Thomas and Rtn. Allan Dingle.



*Standing (L to R): Stan Quin, Andrew Hampton, Brian Kinross, Hugh Wheeler, Ted Jenkins, Garry Gunnell, Ron Poyser.
Seated (L to R): P.P. Norm Phillips, P. Elect. Bryan McMahon, President David Brown, Warren Loy and D.G. Gregory Ross*