



The year was 1989. The Hawks were on track to become back-to-back premiers in arguably the greatest Grand Final of all time. The weekly meetings and the changeover dinners of the club were held at the ANA Hotel in View Street. Prominent business owner of Bendigo Bearings was to become the new president of the Rotary Club of Bendigo. It was a very exciting year for not only the Rotary Club of Bendigo, but Rotary worldwide.

For the first time ever in Rotary's history, women were finally allowed to be admitted as members of Rotary. It was also the year that our club sought application (overseen by Ian Monotti) to become incorporated. Furthermore, it was the year that Hugh Wheeler and Gary Gunnell involved the club in its first *hand's on* project to join a FAIM working party to build new classrooms at Martyrs School in Papua New Guinea. The club also became involved with an IPAC project

to sponsor 4 children in India (with the assistance of the Rotary Club of Ananda) to ensure the children received regular, specially formulated high protein food. For the first time in our club's history, new fund raising projects such as Golf Days and Dinner Auctions became regular events. And it was the year that a young 13 year-old girl from Fiji, Shamima Khan, was sponsored by our club (along with 10 other clubs) to come to Australia for major corrective surgery.

During Bill's year, the club hosted the President's Elect training Seminar for the District and hosted a Group Study Exchange Team from Japan. A local student was sent on exchange to Thailand and the club sponsored a young student from Thailand in return. (*Many members will remember our very popular young man: E K Wattikorne*). The digitization of the history of our great club would never have been possible without the work during the year (under the supervision of Reg Brock and the work of Bruce Williamson and his committee) to finally sort and label all documents and photos into respective boxes according to the years they related to. Our history was then stored in the ANZ premises in View Street - in the room where armed guards had mounted shot guns in the past with an excellent vantage point to protect the gold held on the premises.

Paul Harris Fellowships were awarded during the year to Ron Slattery, Bruce Perrin, Warwick Johansen and to the family of the late, George Jennings. The Sergeant of the Arms for the year was Alan Day. As was reported in the Annual Report: "The Sergeant's a pirate, as slippery as soap. When you're in his clutches, you've got no hope. He'll rob you and fleece you and fine you to boot, then sit at the table, and count his loot. So when you're at Rotary, give willingly and smile. You've no hope of dodging this *gentlemen's* guile. But he'll be forgiven, and his efforts well praised, for helping the needy with the money he's raised".

**The club membership grew to 110 members and attendance for year was 72.5%.** The Art Show sales totaled over \$52,000. 38 local financially disadvantaged students were invited to spend time at Camp Breakaway and a special Xmas party was held for children with a disability. 14 percussion instruments were also provided to these children to assist the children entertain 150 residents at Mount Alexander hospital. Countless donations were provided during the year. Among

them, 6,000 was provided to Bethlehem Home for the Age for a pool ambulift. Donations were also raised for the Salvation Army and Victoria Flood Relief. A fashion parade was also held during the year with the assistance of Myer and a number of Rotary models (family and friends) demonstrating the importance of being sun smart. Our very first dinner auction resulted in a donation of \$13,000 to Sternberg Lodge.

Bill would like to especially thank all the Board members and his wife, Melva, who all gave him great support during his time as president. Bill added it is a year he will always treasure with great pride and satisfaction.



Back Row (l to r): Alan Day, Garry Gunnell, Peter Joseph, Bryan McMahon, Brian Doherty, Ron Poyser,  
Bill Ashby.  
Seated (l to r): John Cooper, David Brown, Norm Phillips, Bill Gray, Ted Rankins, Evan Trevorah.