

1935-1936 Godfrey Eathorne

In 1935, the most popular Australian film was Heritage, a film set in colonial Australia. It starred Franklyn Bennet, Frank Harvey and Peggy Maguire. The most popular film overall was: Mutiny on the Bounty with Clark Gable and Charles Laughton. The most popular song for the year was: Fred Astaire with Cheek to Cheek.

If you own a property built in the 1930's and the architect who designed your home was G. Eathorne, you can count your lucky stars. Even today, a home designed by Godfrey Eathorne is a major selling point.

In 1935, Godfrey Eathorne was the President of the Rotary Club of Bendigo. We only have the Board Minutes of Godfrey's year as President, but the Minutes do provide us with a good insight into what occurred during the year. For example, all the major recommendations and decisions for the year.



Started in Manchester, Inner Wheel was now a formal part of Rotary for spouses and partners of Rotarians. It was decided at the Board that the Club cooperate with Inner Wheel to ensure there were more Ladies Nights. For example, the Club formally asked Inner Wheel to assist with holding a 'Picture Night' for the ladies of the Club.

With respect to a Fellowship Night, for the purpose of welcoming George Lansell back from overseas, Inner Wheel were asked to help organise the special event. Despite there being no dancing (this was dropped as an idea by the Board), the musical items and a talk by George Lansell were enjoyed by all. The ladies had also organised competitions on the night.

It was decided by the Board, the format of the Christmas Night be in the form of a party with a Christmas tree, the singing of Carols and entertainment. Consequently, the ladies from Inner Wheel attending were asked to provide a pianist. Also, to provide a gift for the men attending!

The event to commemorate the Castlemaine Rotary Club being Chartered became a joint Ladies Night for both Clubs. Given the Rotary year was extended by 3 months until October 1 the following year, members and their partners also attended the 1st Anniversary of Castlemaine Rotary.

The Club held a Men's Night on September 4. Members from the newly formed Castlemaine Rotary Club were also invited to attend. Despite 12 Rotarians from Castlemaine attending the night, a very disappointing number of Rotarians from Bendigo attended.

A priority of the Club at the time was to always aid the Young Farmers Clubs. Club members helped organise their conference in Bendigo. Delegates from the Conference were entertained by the Club at Favaloros Cafe.



Interestingly, discussion and debate occurred at the time whether the Club Meetings should sometimes be a night meeting. Those in favour of the idea felt members would have more time available to socialise with other members.



Girls and Boys Week

The Club decided to defer having a Hobbies Exhibition. The Club decided instead to provide educational films for local school children in the Lyric Theatre and the Eaglehawk Town Hall. Feedback from local schools was incredibly positive.



Extension Committee

Discussions continued with forming other Rotary Clubs. Within President Eathorne's year, most of the discussion centred on forming Rotary Clubs in Shepparton and Denilquin.

From the Board Minutes, we can see unmistakable evidence of which charities/community groups were supported during the year. Funds were provided for: The Blanket Fund, Children with a Disability, The King's Memorial Fund, and the Home for the Blind. The Club had paid for 100 feet (30 meters approx.) of handrail be erected at the Home for the Blind.

During the year, an enjoyable time for the residents of the Toddler's Home was provided by members who undertook to take them for a long drive in the country. The Club also provided gifts for all the children at Xmas.