

1953-1954 Robert Hugh Trethewey

The most popular film in 1953 was Walt Disney's Peter Pan. The most popular song was: Where is Your Heart by Percy Faith.



In Bendigo, the new President was Robert Trethewey. Robert, an insurance company manager, grew up in Eaglehawk and would go on to serve the Bendigo community in the Legislative Assembly for the Liberal and Country Party from 1964 to 1973.



When the new President encouraged members to contribute ideas of projects that may be excellent fundraisers, a Baby Contest was suggested by member, Reg Brock.

President Trethewey then, to encourage entrants, asked members to donate 50 Pounds as the first prize for the winner. As a result of the generous prize money on hand, there were over five hundred entries.

Entries were received from all over Victoria. The Club decided to choose to have judges for the contest from Melbourne.

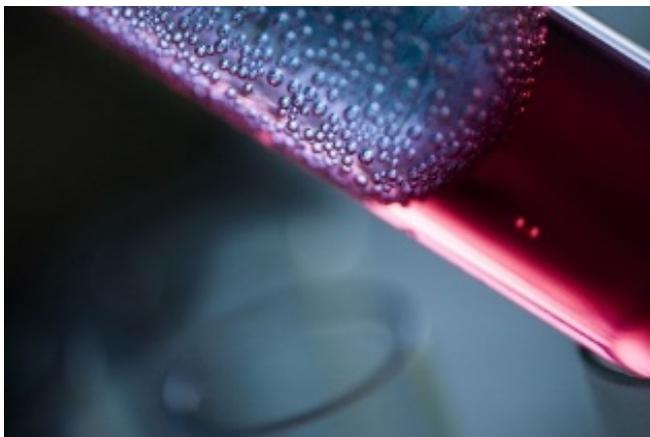
As a result of the Baby Contest, 709:6:8 (pounds, shillings, and pence) was raised. The funds were donated to the Council for Children's Aid and for children with an intellectual disability. At this time, children with special needs, were not provided with funds for their education.

Most years Presidents undertake slight changes to Club Meetings. President Robert decided to increase the cost of Club Luncheons by six pence to cover the cost of guests (for example, the speaker). The Sergeant also was given the responsibility to fine every member that missed a meeting one shilling.

Attendance at Luncheons had become such a concern, it was decided by the Board, that Rotary International Attendance Rules be strictly followed. As a result, members were asked to resign because of poor attendance. The District Governor also suggested the Club limit the break at Xmas time to 3 weeks.

Another small, but meaningful change that occurred, was the introduction of a Visitor's Card for Club guests at Meetings.

The subject of Night Meetings came up again and the Board decided that starting from August, the 4th Tuesday in the month would be a Night Meeting. There was a small rise in the cost of the meal due to the overtime involved for hotel staff.



A survey was conducted by the Club to gauge what were the main needs within the local community. As a direct result, eighteen members of the Club became blood donors.

The Mayor of Bendigo responded to the survey by asking the Club to organise an outing for senior citizens of Bendigo. Consequently, members of the Club offered senior citizens a day outing with a drive in the country. They were also taken to visit the Axedale Youth Camp.



The Club Board decided an honour board be purchased to acknowledge all the Past Presidents and Secretaries that had served the Club since 1925. Today, at Club Meetings, members and guests can see every President and Secretary that has served the Rotary Club of Bendigo for the past one hundred years.



The Axedale Camp was a priority in President Robert's year. As a result, more working bees were undertaken. Consequently, a new brick powerhouse was built which housed a modern power plant. The old petrol driven pump was replaced with an electric one which was connected to the S.E.C. Several huts were also rewired.

A new detailed brochure showing the new facilities available, and the location of the Camp was distributed to attract more interest from community groups and schools.



The Queen and Prince Phillip in Bendigo, 1954

Rotarians are known for their community spirit and this year was no different. The Club organised two large buses to transport children from the Toddler's Home to and from the Royal Progress in Bendigo in 1954.

Jack Henderson, who played a huge part in the building of the stand at the Q.E.O, sold seats in the stand to raise \$2,000 for Legacy.