

President Jane McLean

2004-05

On February 23, 1905, Paul Harris had started the very first Rotary Club in Chicago. 100 years later, Jane McLean was President of our Club. It was Jane's goal to come up with an idea to commemorate 100 years of Rotary.

When Jane would pass the Town Hall, she sometimes wondered, even though there was allocated space in the tower, why were there no clocks? During her Presidential year, Jane made some inquiries and discovered that this was due to a lack of funds at the time the tower was built.

Consequently, President Jane felt what better way could there be to commemorate 100 years of Rotary, than to donate funds for the clocks for all residents and visitors to admire. Work soon began and the clocks were installed into the City of Bendigo Tower.

The Rotary Club donated \$35,000, The Bendigo Advertiser \$20,000 and the Bendigo Council \$6,500.

The idea of installing the clocks was first mooted in Colin Burn's year as President.

The Town Hall Tower was redesigned in 1878. Despite the initial plan being for the tower to have 4 clocks, it took another 127 years before the clocks were finally installed.





TIMELY CELEBRATIONS: Barry Ackerman, *The Advertiser's* Peter Dehnert, Jane McLean and City of Greater Bendigo mayor, Rod Fyffe, cut the official cake at the launch of the Town Hall Clock.

For the past 80 years, all the Club's documents had mostly been kept in files. Only in the past couple of years, had Board Minutes and Fossickers become digitized. During President Jane's year, with the Art Show documentation now also becoming digitized, Jane explored options whether it was possible to digitize the past 80 years of our history to ensure our history would be preserved. On examination of some of our early records in 1925, the Club's documentation was rapidly deteriorating.

The Board and History Coordinator, Bruce Reid, met with CVGT to consider whether the digitization of our history records could be done through a 'Work for the Dole' Project. The following year, the recording of our history was begun which eventually took 2 years to complete. Consequently, our most important original documents from as far back as 1925 were finally digitized.

President Jane understood the importance of our rich history. At a meeting, she invited some of our long-term members to reflect on their many years in the Club.

Not only were the speakers thrilled to be



provided the opportunity to relive some of their memories of the past, but members were genuinely interested in learning more about our history.

President Jane also held Club and Membership forums. Jane was very interested in learning more about exactly what members seek from membership in Rotary. Her goal was to establish more effective advertising material which would better target prospective members into joining our Club.

Other notable special events during President Jane's year include:

- A very successful Centennial Dinner was held at The All Seasons to celebrate the work of Rotary undertaken by all local Rotary Clubs.
- A GSE Team from New Mexico was home hosted by members.
- A barbecue, with live entertainment, was held for all the participants of Peter Harcourt Centre.

