

# A Past President Remembers

Daryl Watts



The year was 1980. It was the year that the Tigers went one better than simply making the finals, they went on to win the premiership in a canter over the Magpies. The Mayor of Bendigo was Bob Campbell and the Town Clerk was Keith Beamish. John Bouchier M.H.R and Daryl McLure M.L.A were our local parliamentarians.

The 100 members of the Rotary Club of Bendigo met at the ANA Motor Inn, View Street, Bendigo. Subscriptions were \$56, attendance was an average of 76% (Ken Hesse completed 31 years of 100% attendance) and the theme for the year was: Take Time to Serve. Our youngest president ever was to take the reins of our club. Daryl Watts was more than ready to have his best year ever in Rotary.

It was the year that 232 local students were helped with their interview skills by our members conducting mock interviews. Weekly safety hints, provided by members, to assist 'safety in the home' were published regularly in The Advertiser. Two new lights were installed (and the other lights maintained) for the Toc H emergency lighting program.

Ron Casey, Brigadier Ian Gilmore and Sir Bernard Callinan were just a few of the distinguished guests that spoke at our club meetings. Our incoming student came from South Africa and our outgoing student was sent to Japan. It was also the year that the Carols by Candlelight became Carols by Torchlight due to a total fire ban. Also, the Art Show (which included a new venture Antique and Weavers Exhibition) held receipts of \$48,339.71 with 36 paintings being sold.

Significant funds were provided during the year. For example, to Strath-Haven and Bethlehem Home for the Aged, along with Mirridong Home for the Blind. Funds were also provided for primary teacher in-service training in the Solomon Islands.

Fellowship, under the directorship of Geoff McLeod, was to come to the fore during Daryl's year. A games night, progressive dinner, pool-side party, film night, bowls night, rotating dinner, theatre night in Melbourne, mystery bus trip and family day at the youth camp were all held and immensely enjoyed by members. Fireside meetings were also held to assist new members.

According to Daryl, he had great support from Jenny, his family and employer, the Board and all members which enabled him to: Take Time to Serve. Daryl added that it was indeed a great honor and privilege to have served as President of our great club.

