

President Brian Kinross 1993-94

I met Brian when I first joined Rotary. I will never forget the day he spoke at his very last meeting he attended to announce he will no longer be a member of the Club. Brian felt he had contributed all he could and the time had arrived for him to retire from Rotary. For myself, Brian sounded like an AFL footballer who could no longer contribute to the excellent level that he or she had in the past, and the time had regrettably arrived to gracefully leave.



When someone is asked to become President, they are normally given 1 to 2 years notice to prepare themselves for their year. Importantly, it provides plenty of time to think about a new project. Also, time to visit other Clubs to gain some ideas of how other Clubs operate. Furthermore, it is an important time to think about which members of the Club to select as Board members and to head the Committees to assist you achieve your overall goals.



President Brian did not wait until his first Board meeting to announce his plans for the year. Brian had already engaged with members of his incoming Board and all the incoming Committee leaders, many months before the year begun. He did this to ensure they all knew and clearly understood his aims and objectives for his year as President.

Tropical Cyclone Ofa hit Samoa in February 1990. Winds reached 185 kph and 7 people were killed. In December 1991, Cyclone Val hit the nation causing extensive damage with 240



kph winds and 15 metre waves. The cyclones caused the nation to be in a state of shock. It was estimated that there was \$200 million of damage to electrical, water and telephone connections, government buildings, houses, and schools. The residents on the island were vulnerable, due to not only the structure of their buildings, but also the failure of the communication equipment to warn and update residents of the events.

In response to the tragedy, President Brian, along with 6 members of our Club, 2 members from Bendigo Sandhurst and Garry Gunnel's father, Max, all travelled at their own expense to form 2 FAIM teams to assist the residents of Samoa. Their mission was to erect cyclone proof shelters in the event another cyclone hit the island.



While they were in Samoa, two members of the team, Bill Gray and John Flood, had to be taken to hospital for medical treatment for injuries to their legs. Experiencing first-hand how poorly the hospital was equipped, both Charlie Martin and Bill Gray, on their return from Samoa, sought donations of medical supplies to assist the hospital. Bill Gray organised 2 large crates of vital equipment (to the value of \$25,000) be shipped to the Samoan hospital they visited.

During President Brian's year, other fund-raising activities that assisted the community involved:

- A concert organised by Val Broad for the those affected by the NSW bushfires. The concert raised \$4,700.
- Through the efforts of Kevin Reilly and others, \$17,500 was raised for those affected by floods in North-Eastern Victoria.
- Some members helped the Youth Camp with interest free loans. An Observatory was built and all the money from members was repaid.



- At the dinner auction, Money raised (\$12,000) was given to purchase Pulse-Oximeters for the North -Western Regional Ambulance Service.

At the District level, our Club received several awards. For example:

- Certificate of Commendation (only 1 out of 6 awarded) for the Paint-Your- Heart- Out program.
- The Community Service Display Award organized by Hal Moors.
- Balance Club Achievement Award.
- Rotary at its Best Award.



Back (left to right): Ted Jenkins, Hugh Wheeler, Brian Kinross (President), Kevin Reilly.
Front: (left to right): Barry Penna, Valerie Broad, Stan Quin, Larrie Winzar, Robert McLeod.
Absent: Bryan McMahon, Colin Burns, Warren Loy.