

CHAPTER SEVEN

IN THE WORKPLACE

UNDOUBTEDLY the most misunderstood "avenue" of service in Rotary and the one about which there is little agreement is vocational service. To clarify its meaning, some Rotarians have described vocational service as "Rotary at work where we work" or, more simply, "Rotary in the workplace".

Intended to give practical expression to the second part of the Object of Rotary: (to encourage and foster) "High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society", it has proved to be a stumbling block to those who prefer clear-cut instructions to philosophical considerations.

There is little argument about the need for high ethical standards or about the desirability of recognising the worthiness of useful occupations. The problem arises when the Rotary club seeks to undertake practical projects in vocational service.

Because a vocational service committee is one of each Rotary club's "major" committees, under the leadership of a club director, most clubs believe that the committee should be required to undertake particular projects in vocational service in the manner of community and international service committees; but many see vocational service as the responsibility of every member of the club; and the task of the vocational service committee as no more than the promotion, within the club, of vocational excellence, high ethical standards and friendly, courteous service.

In March, 1935, an Australian Rotary Conference was held in Melbourne (being the 8th Annual Conference of the 65th District and the 5th Annual Conference of the 76th District). It was attended by Rotary Founder Paul Harris; and the two district governors, Angus Mitchell and Thomas Armstrong, shared the honour of presiding. A fine address on Vocational Service was delivered by Eric Lingard of Newcastle; one of Australia's great Rotarians and a distinguished newspaper editor.

"The subject is difficult and unpopular," he said. "It has been

sidestepped by nearly all of the 3,700 Rotary clubs of the world – this dangerous and delicate subject of 'Vocational Service'." And, after giving sound advice on the subject, which was apparently as misunderstood then as it is now, and after suggesting a set of standards for business and professional conduct, he summed up:–

"The vocational service committee has appeared, in most instances, to be the club Cinderella. This committee cannot collectively do the members' job. Its work is purely propaganda...directed towards each member. It has to guide, to assist, to enthuse and encourage members in the exercise of their personal opportunity to serve in their vocations.

"There is plenty to do . . . Provide the program committee with more addresses on the subject. Plan forum groups. Find out the activities of members. Advocate membership in trade and professional associations. Plan special activities. Arrange plenty of 'my job' talks."

Vocational service, as an ideal, began quite early in the history of Rotary with the election to membership of the Rotary Club of Chicago of one Arthur Frederick Sheldon in 1908. Sheldon was the founder of a school of salesmanship and the promoter of business relations whose personal mission was to persuade the world that business should not be motivated by greed and practised in an atmosphere of hostility and ruthless competition but should be seen as an opportunity to serve society.

Soon after he became a member, Fred Sheldon was given the chairmanship of a Committee on Business Methods to encourage and assist in implementing the idea that each Rotarian's business methods must warrant the confidence not only of his fellow Rotarians but also of the general public. As other clubs were formed they also gave attention to this aspect of Rotary; and when the first convention (at which the National Association of Rotary Clubs was formed) was held in 1910, Sheldon, in a speech at the closing banquet, emphasised the importance of business ethics and made it clear that corruption and unfair practices were unacceptable and must be eliminated.

"The distinguishing mark of the commercialism of the 19th Century," he said, "was competition – do others before they do

you. In this 20th Century the human race is approaching wisdom. The distinguishing mark of this century is to be co-operation. As man comes into the light of wisdom he comes to see that right conduct towards others pays, that business is the science of human service and that he profits most who serves his fellows best."

Next year, at the convention in Portland, Oregon, Benjamin F. Collins proposed that the proper way to organise a club was through the principle of "service not self".

The two mottoes, slightly modified to "Service above Self" and "He profits most who serves best" thus came into general use in 1911, though they were not officially adopted until 1950. At the 1912 convention, of the five "goals" adopted, two referred to business ethics: "the promotion and recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations" and "high ethical standards in business and professions" (both now enshrined in the Object of Rotary). By the 1920s fair business practice had been adopted by many trade and professional associations in America and Europe, for which Rotary claims some credit.

British Rotarians, however, were not particularly happy with the terminology and sought an alternative to "business methods"; but it was not easy to condense into simple words the concept of service to society through business and professional activity. When Rotary finally arrived at its four fields (later called avenues) of service for a Rotarian: in his club, in his community, internationally and through his profession, business, calling, trade, craft or other occupation, someone suggested "vocation" to cover the lot; so that in 1927, "Vocational Service" officially replaced "Business Methods" as the description for this avenue of service.

When Rotary arrived in Australia in 1921, the newly recruited Rotarians found no difficulty in accepting the idea of ethical behaviour in their various occupations. The first Antipodean Rotarians were all men of distinction whose integrity was beyond question; and their standards were imposed, probably without conscious effort on their part, on those who followed them. One did not (and does not now) propose a person for Rotary membership unless one is sure of that person's character; and the fact that a few have been found to be less than honourable in no way

diminishes the responsibility of every member.

In New Zealand, Harold T. Thomas, who joined the Rotary Club of Auckland in 1923 and was later (1959-60) to serve as president of Rotary International, was particularly impressed by the "crusade" of Fred Sheldon and was largely instrumental in promoting his ideas in the Dominion and subsequently throughout this region and then around the world.

From their early days, Rotary clubs included discussions of business and professional ethics in their club programs and made "business practice" and "ethics" the subject of innumerable "fireside chats"; and "case studies" (in which a hypothetical case is outlined to a group and the ethical considerations are discussed) were popular vocational service exercises in clubs; but the idea of vocational service projects did not emerge as a general practice, under that heading until the 1950s, when clubs began to conduct careers advisory programs at secondary schools.

This was when the widespread discussions began about what was or was not a vocational service project. Was the provision of vocational information to young people really vocational service or was it community service? Similarly, was a booklet listing all the employers and the qualifications they expected of prospective employees in the club area vocational or community service? And, to make the matter even more complicated, was sponsorship of a migrant family, finding accommodation and providing employment for the breadwinner an international, community or vocational service project? The discussions continued; and continue to this day.

Meanwhile, clubs began to consider a different kind of vocational service project: awards for vocational excellence to people who had made an important contribution to society through their vocations, or to local firms or to employees of local firms who had demonstrated a high standard of service to the public. These awards are usually presented at a luncheon or dinner meeting of the club to which the recipients, their employers and families and sometimes civic dignitaries are invited.

A vocational service award was introduced to the Rotary Club of Sydney by Fred Birks in 1926. He presented a silver cup to be

awarded to a citizen of Sydney, man or woman, who, in the opinion of a committee to be appointed by the Board, had performed the best community service during the year, without having received any other recognition. For his work in cancer research, Rotarian Dr. Frank Sandes was the recipient of the first award. The award apparently did not continue in its original form; but it was re-inaugurated in 1959 to recognise outstanding service through the recipient's vocation in the spirit of "Service above Self". Recipients have represented education, business, medicine, science, the arts, religion and trade unions.

The Rotary Club of Melbourne introduced its Annual Vocational Service Award in 1964 for a person, Rotarian or not, "who has given outstanding service to the community through his vocation within the territorial limits of the club." The first recipient was Rotarian Oliver J. Nilson for services to the community through commercial broadcasting. Melbourne's list of recipients also includes distinguished citizens from a wide range of callings.

Encouragement of vocational excellence takes many forms. The Rotary Club of Ryde, N.S.W. and District 968 (9680), adopted a proposal by Les Whitcroft to issue metal plaques to be displayed in thousands of business houses and professional practices. The plaque, made and distributed by Les Whitcroft as his personal contribution, bore the legend "Pride of Workmanship: Do it Once - Do it Well - Build a Better Australia". This was taken up by other districts and was suitably modified for use across the Tasman. A Rotarian obstetrician who displayed the plaque in his consulting rooms reported that it met with a mixed reaction.

An interesting aspect of vocational service was the adoption of "The Four Way Test"; a simple but badly-worded series of questions which one is expected to ask oneself when entering into any business transaction. The Four Way Test was devised by Herbert J. Taylor who assumed control of a bankrupt company in the U.S.A. during the depression years. He later said that he had been able to bring the company back to profitability simply by introducing his Four Way Test to all the company's staff. It reads (in full) "The Four Way Test of the things we think, say and do: 1. Is it the Truth? 2. Is it Fair to All Concerned? 3. Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friend-

ships? 4. Will it be Beneficial to All Concerned?"

The Four Way Test was introduced to Rotary as a vocational service criterion in the 1940s and was being widely used by the early 50s. When Herb Taylor served as president of Rotary International (1954-55) he authorised Rotary to use it officially.

An anonymous staff writer at the Rotary International Secretariat describes it thus: "The Four Way Test is not a code or a creed but a stimulus to self-appraisal. It is not a pledge, but rather a spring-board to voluntary self-improvement. It is not a sermon, although any number of sermons have been preached on it. It aims to encourage the ethical instincts in every person and constitutes a simple and practical guide for people of all cultures."

The Four Way Test was adopted with enthusiasm and promoted with vigour by American Rotarians and was generally accepted in other parts of the world, sometimes under a slightly modified title (the French refer to it as Les Quatre Questions). The British demonstrated their reservations by quietly allowing it to remain in the literature but appear to have done little to promote its use (in fact it was described by Roger Levy in his excellent History of Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland as ". . . a piece of homespun morality with which R.I.B.I. Rotarians were never unanimously comfortable") while in Australia it has been the subject of almost constant debate (in a highly civilised manner, of course) sometimes at meetings and conferences and frequently in the correspondence pages of Rotary Down Under. Those who favour it defend it stoutly and those who find it an embarrassment advance their reasons for opposing its use. On one point most Australian Rotarians are agreed: if one does keep a framed copy of the Four Way Test or a plaque on which it is engraved in one's office, it should face the Rotarian, not his client or customer.

Many have proposed that it be amended; but this is not possible as the copyright is held by The Four Way Test Inc. in the U.S.A. and its use by Rotary is licensed by that organisation. Others have paraphrased it, one governor (who shall remain nameless) by issuing an exhortation to "Be truthful, be fair, be friendly, be helpful", but nothing, it seems, is likely to replace "The Test" in the affection of its faithful adherents who cannot agree with those who

claim that it is absurd because it is not universally applicable to everything "we think, say and do" and that it is ungrammatical, simplistic and philosophically untenable. It is certain that the debate will continue.

A footnote to the Four Way Test suggests that it is "out of this world", for, when the American astronauts were preparing for their voyage to the moon, R.I. Past President Herb Taylor presented Rotarian Colonel Ed (Buzz) Aldrin with a Four Way Test ball-point pen - one of those on which the four questions appear in turn in a little window as the point is extended and retracted. Before leaving the moon to return to the more congenial environment of the Earth, Ed pushed the pen, point first, into the lunar dust and left it there.

It may be fairly said that Rotary clubs in Australia did their best with vocational service, the "Cinderella" of their avenues of service, trying to inculcate the idea that honesty is the best policy not only because it is morally right but because it is good business; and that, likewise, efficient, willing and friendly service is desirable for the advancement of good will and is also good business. It became fashionable to refer to "enlightened self-interest". At the same time they continued to devise a large number of projects, some quite clearly valuable community projects having a tenuous relationship with employment.

In 1970 the Australian Rotary Institute pondered the problem faced by clubs in their understanding of vocational service and appointed a small committee to investigate and report. At the following Institute gathering (1971) the ad hoc committee recommended the election of an Institute standing committee on vocational service: and the Australian Vocational Advisory Committee (AVAC) came into existence with Lionel Catt as chairman and David Clarkson, Phil Kearns, Fred Stewart and Ross Irvine as members (all from South Australia). Its brief was to issue an advisory handbook for the benefit of all club vocational service committees, setting out the basic responsibilities in vocational service of Rotarians in general and vocational committee chairmen in particular. The handbook was to be issued each year and regularly revised with the addition of vocational service projects and programs found by other clubs to have been successful.

A new committee of three members is elected every three years, all members of the committee for each three-year term being chosen from the same State; committee members thus serve from all States in rotation. The handbook, subsequently re-named The Vocational Service Director's Guide, has been issued annually to all clubs in Australia since 1973.

Apart from the careers conferences/markets/nights, large and small, and the simulated job interviews and other projects to help young people in their quest for employment described under services to youth, and the vocational awards presented now by so many, clubs have shown a great deal of ingenuity in devising vocational service projects.

During the years of the Great Depression in the 1930s, the training of young people in many trades collapsed. Youth were virtually denied the right to work. Apprenticeships were severely rationed, wages were reduced, impossible conditions were imposed on employers and unions were demanding reforms. In this atmosphere, the vocational service committee of the Rotary Club of Melbourne, in 1934-35-36 held discussions with trade, industry and Government on youth training; gathered information, tabulated its findings and alerted the Government to the problems and suggested solutions. This resulted in the Eltham Report (1936) and new facilities for vocational training in technical schools.

In 1961 the Melbourne club initiated the "Train of Knowledge" project. Working first with the Rotary Club of Warrnambool, and with the co-operation of Railways and Tramways Departments, the club brought 1,200 senior students from schools in the Western District by train to Melbourne and were shown no fewer than 60 places of employment where they were able to see, and ask questions about the trades or professions in which they had shown interest. Obviously this involved the Rotarians in a great deal of work, meeting trains, shepherding their charges onto trams and buses and taking them to the various business houses and factories. The exercise, which proved to be very successful, was repeated in partnership with Mornington and Morwell clubs later in the same year.

As a reciprocal vocational service project, the Rotary Club of

Kyabram developed the "Train of Knowledge in Reverse" in 1968 with the Rotary Club of Keilor, bringing a party of Melbourne suburban students to see rural industries at first hand: farms, orchards, vineyards, butter and cheese factories, canning factories and the research station. The students were billeted with Rotary families.

An essay competition conducted by the Rotary Club of Pennant Hills, New South Wales, was its vocational service project for 1967. Prizes were offered to first year (year seven) students at local secondary schools for the best essay on "My Choice of a Vocation."

At the District 280 (9800) Conference in 1967 the Rotary Club of Box Hill, Victoria, presented a vocational service session, after which, as a vocational service project, made a case studies leaflet available to other clubs.

An apprentice was awarded a two-weeks vocational tour of Sydney and Newcastle by the Rotary Club of Prospect, South Australia, as one of its projects in 1968. To qualify for the award, as well as demonstrating vocational excellence, apprentices had to be engaged in activities of service to the community.

Hints on Job Interviews was a small leaflet sponsored by the Rotary Club of Henley Beach, South Australia, and distributed to more than 1,000 senior secondary school students. The simple project was described by Perce Schirmer in Rotary Down Under in February, 1969.

Impressed by the simplicity and effectiveness of the Henley Beach project, the Rotary Club of North Sydney, New South Wales, in 1971 used it on which to base a 10-minute, 16mm colour film entitled Applying for a Job which was made available, through Rotary clubs, to schools and other institutions.

One club that had no doubts about the value of the Four Way Test was Bexley, New South Wales. As its 1972 vocational service project the club presented Four Way Test plaques to local schools and designed, printed and distributed to school children thousands of attractive book-marks with the Test prominently displayed. This campaign was accompanied by talks to schools on the Four Way Test.

Work experience is a common activity in 1996, but it was being

pioneered as a vocational service project in the 1970s. The Rotary Club of Port Pirie, South Australia, in 1976 arranged for girls undertaking commercial courses at local high schools to spend a week working for businesses in the town, not all of which were operated by Rotarians. The program was judged a success and was continued and expanded in the following years.

Taking the "Pride of Workmanship" plaques initiated by Les Whitcroft a step further, the Rotary Club of Pennant Hills, in 1976, began the Pride of Workmanship Awards, encouraging clubs to present a handsome, inscribed wall plaque to people in their communities judged by their employers to have earned them. The idea was quickly adopted by clubs across the continent, reaching Darwin in 1980.

"Task Force 100", directed by Daryl Heath, was a 1978 project launched by the Rotary Club of Geelong, Victoria, in which the club membership of 120 was divided into 12 teams to approach employers, asking them to take on a young person under the Government-subsidised Special Youth Employment Training Program; the target being 100 placements. The target was achieved and 91% of the young people involved gained work skills leading to permanent employment.

Building trades apprentices were given practical training as a vocational service project of the Rotary Club of Nerang, Queensland, which (with the co-operation of the Master Builders' Association, the appropriate trade unions and the TAFE College) set them to work building a house. On completion the house was sold, the profits being used to establish a library for the building industry at the TAFE college and to provide emergency accommodation for young people in the building trades.

The Riverland and Mallee Apprentice of the Year Award, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Renmark, South Australia, since 1981 with Bob Twyford as the driving force, had become, within a few years, one of the region's major annual events and had served the recipients well in their future careers.

The few referred to above were all described as vocational service projects by their clubs. Not everyone would agree that they

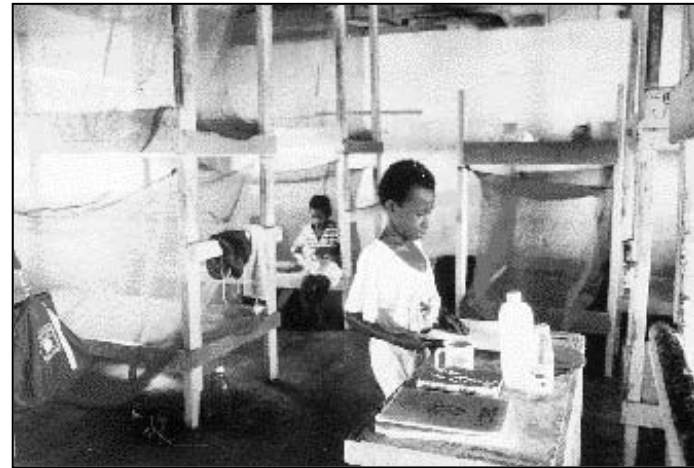
qualify. On the other hand, almost everyone would agree that they – and the thousands of others not recorded – were valuable services, no matter by which club committee they were carried out.

In a recent report to the Institute, the Australian Vocational Advisory Committee commented: "From our observation, Rotary is crying out for firm and positive direction in vocational service. It seems vague or even misunderstood by many Rotarians and . . . should be promoted and explained at every opportunity." Plus ça change . . .!

Vocational Service Guide

&

Applying for a Job pic



Bednets impregnated to combat malaria are used in boarding schools in Vanuatu.



Above - Port Vila Rotarian Jacques Schelpens takes blood samples from children in Vanuatu during the anti-malaria campaign.

Below - Villagers dip bed nets in permethrin under the supervision of Health Department officials.





Malaria is a problem for people in the Kokoda district. A mother is at the hospital with her baby who had contracted the disease.



Left - Master painter PP Harry Williams of the Rotary Club of Corrimal, N.S.W., and his team of painters. Pascol assisted in the provision of paint and equipment.



Right - Kokoda villagers erecting the platform used in the opening ceremony. Each village in the district cut and decorated a tree, carried it to the site and then, in one afternoon, with much ceremony and straining set them up as shown. Jungle vines were used to pull the trees upright and smaller vines then used to lash the platform in place.

CHAPTER EIGHT

SERVICE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

THIS chapter is contributed by Dr. Basil Shaw, Rotary Club of Brisbane West, Governor (1995-96) of District 9600, which includes the Rotary clubs in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. As an historian, Basil Shaw is an authority on these countries and his specialised knowledge of the former Territories has been of inestimable value to Rotary during his year as district governor.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Early Years, 1957-67: the First Eight Clubs

Although the Rotary Club of Port Moresby in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea¹ was admitted to Rotary International on September 17, 1957, there had been enquiries about forming a Rotary Club in Papua since 1929². Rotary had been extended to the island of New Guinea in 1955-56 when the Rotary Club of Hollandia was established in Netherlands New Guinea (now Jayapura in the Indonesian province of Irianjaya) so there has been a Rotary presence on the island of New Guinea for some forty years.

The early history of Rotary in Papua New Guinea is partly documented in two official Rotary histories by Harold Hunt of the Rotary Club of Melbourne³ and PDG Sir Arnold Bennett of the Rotary Club of Brisbane⁴. Both of these histories are out of print so a brief summary follows with comment on what they reported in their chapters on Rotary in Papua New Guinea.

Both Harold Hunt and Arnold Bennett record that there was a number of former Rotarians living in Port Moresby who were interested in starting Rotary in what was in 1956, undistricted territory⁵. In 1958 Lex Fraser, then Governor of District 255 (9550), visited the newly-established Port Moresby club and noted "some corrections were necessary". Lex was referring to a lack of knowledge of Rotary protocol and procedures and the story is told in his account of Rotary in PNG in Arnold Bennett's history⁶.

Lex went on to help in the formation of clubs in Goroka (1959),

Lae (1959), Rabaul (1961) and Madang (1962), the first three being sponsored by Port Moresby club. Madang has an interesting charter history and the record shows that it had no sponsor club although it certainly had help from Lex Fraser and the Goroka club⁷.

Goroka sponsored Wewak (1965) and Mt Hagen (1967). Wewak's charter president was Senior Police Inspector Frank H o e t e r , currently living in Hervey Bay, District 9570, and a Governor of that district in 1981-82⁸. Mt Hagen also had a nucleus of former Rotarians from Lae and Goroka in its charter membership of 29. In all these early clubs the charter numbers were substantial, mostly in the high twenties, and membership stayed that way during this period.

The only other club to be admitted to R.I. in the sixties was Boroko. This was the second club to be formed in Port Moresby, located away from the Harbour among the commercial and industrial estates of Boroko and the Four Mile and drawing on Waigani, the site of Papua New Guinea's first higher education institutions and, later, the government and public service precincts⁹.

And so the senior Rotary Clubs of Papua New Guinea - eight in all - were established in the decade 1957 to 1967. They were composed almost entirely of expatriate Australians. Included in the membership were some of the Territory's most senior administrators¹⁰; they had access to power and patronage¹¹ and Rotarians may well have been seen as a privileged elite by the younger local people who would become the nation's leaders in 1975.

The clubs were, as yet, undistricted; and apart from regular visits from Lex Fraser and the occasional visitor,¹² they lacked the regular contact, the counsel and the sense of belonging that membership in a district provides.

Socially and politically Papua New Guinea underwent rapid change in this decade. In 1958 District Advisory Councils were established by the Administration allowing the participation of local people in political decisions. In 1962 the Mission of the UN Trusteeship Council, chaired by Sir Hugh Foot, recommended that steps be taken to unify the people of the two separate territories by giving them common citizenship.

Foot also recommended that land tenure be reviewed; that a system of higher education be introduced and that a popularly elected national parliament be established. Subsequently, the elections for the first House of Assembly were held in 1964¹³.

Australian Labor Party leader Gough Whitlam visited PNG in 1962 and 1965 and left no doubts in the minds of those who heard him speak that the ALP had a different timetable in mind for PNG independence than did the coalition government¹⁴. The University of Papua New Guinea opened its doors in 1966 and Papua New Guinea's first local political party, the Papua New Guinea Union (PANGU) was formed.

These innovations and changes were portents of a rapidly emerging nationalism. A national (Melanesian) identity was slowly developing in towns such as Port Moresby, Lae and Rabaul, centres where there were congregations of able young Papua New Guineans from all over the country. This sense of a national Melanesian identity was heightened by the arrival of the Indonesians in West Irian in 1963 and the presence of an Asian culture in the western half of New Guinea. The departure of the Dutch from this part of the country also marked the termination of the Rotary club of Hollandia.

A Melanesian consciousness was growing which Rotary could have acknowledged by introducing more local people into the clubs. In 1966 Eliuda Togatia, the first local man to join Rotary in Papua New Guinea and a member of the Goroka Club, spoke at the First Annual Rotary Conference and he appears to be one of the few Papua New Guineans to be invited to join Rotary in its first ten years¹⁵.

Harold Hunt considers the issue of why there was an absence of local people in Rotary, his informants telling him that Rotary wasn't understood by the locals; that it was too expensive; and that they felt "in some way or another that we must bring outstanding local people into the scope of Rotary, but exactly how to go about this without appearing to offer charity (or creating a second class membership) has us all beaten at the moment".¹⁶

In 1968 the clubs in Papua New Guinea became part of District 255 (9550), which included the Northern Territory and North Queensland, Frank Aston being the first governor to make official

visits to the clubs. This was a short-lived arrangement, the clubs being relocated in District 260 (9600) the following year, because access by air to PNG was easier and more economical from Brisbane than from Cairns, Mt Isa or Darwin. Brian Knowles was the first 9600 Governor to visit the clubs and the Forum that year was held in Rabaul.

The Second Generation of Clubs

There were no clubs formed during the period 1967 to 1982. This is understandable because it was a period of even greater socio-political change during which self government (1973) and independence (1975) were granted and Australia relinquished its role as a colonial power.

One of the concomitants of this change was the "localisation" of many public service positions and the return to Australia and the UK of much of the expatriate work force. Many Rotarians left the country during this period and retaining and reinvigorating membership in the existing clubs became the priority for Rotary in Papua New Guinea. Many expatriate Australians had their first experience of Rotary in PNG and this led to a lifetime commitment to Rotary "down south" where they continue to serve.¹⁷

In 1982 the first of the second wave of clubs was sponsored by Lae club at Bulolo-Wau in Morobe Province, scene of the first major gold discoveries in PNG. Kundiawa in the Chimbu Province of the Highlands (1982) was sponsored by Mt Hagen club. Arawa on the island of Bougainville (1984) and Huon Gulf (1985), the second club in the town of Lae, followed in quick succession, both sponsored by Lae club. Where Lex Fraser had been the active promoter of Rotary in the fifties and sixties, PP Denis Bradney of the Lae club, filled this role in the eighties and was responsible for much of the extension in PNG during this period.

By 1990 three of the clubs in the country had closed: Kundiawa (1987), Goroka (1989) and Arawa (1990), although Goroka was reinstated in 1993. The Governors' Reports of the period tell the story of Kundiawa and Goroka. DG Bob Herrington, reporting on Kundiawa to the R.I. Branch Office in Parramatta in October 1987, noted:

Pat Brennan is the only member of the club... Pat is under a death threat . . . a party of Chimbu entered the room where the (Rotary) meeting was taking place (Pat and a prospective member) and abused the meeting . . . riots . . . the charter should be withdrawn except that no one knows where it is since the riots . . . please let R.I. know that Kundiawa is no longer with us.

John Feros, who reinstated Goroka in 1993 with the dedicated help of PP Charlie Beaver of Huon Gulf club, described the difficulties Rotary was facing in PNG when he wrote to the Branch office on October 17, 1992 of his intention to re-charter Goroka.

Goroka . . . had a proud history of service in the Eastern Highlands Province until the club disbanded in 1989, due in part, I understand, to personality clashes in club membership. Between June 1988 and June 1990, Rotary membership in PNG declined dramatically from 289 to 178. There has been some recovery since then, despite the difficulties under which Rotary clubs in P N G operate, with increasing problems of law and order, declining expatriate population, economic recession and so on.

Arawa club flourished in the late eighties because of the development of the giant Bougainville Copper Limited mine at Panguna on the island of Bougainville in the North Solomons Province of Papua New Guinea where it drew on the expatriate populations in Arawa and Kieta. Reports in Rotary Down Under during Arawa's short period of service from 1983 to 1990 indicate a vibrant club, "Rotary in a Tropical Paradise", hosting FAIM teams; supporting The Rotary Foundation and helping the local people with water and sanitation projects.¹⁸ Its closure, due to civil war on Bougainville, resulted in the loss of twenty-three members to Rotary.

Membership

No records of total numbers in the PNG clubs during the early part of this period have been found; but there were probably between 150 to 200 members during the period 1957-67, which increased to 250 during the second phase of extension. The maximum number appears to be 289 at June 30, 1988 prior to the closure of the Goroka and Arawa clubs. The low point was 178 in

1990. June 30 1996 figures are 226, ninety of whom are in the two Port Moresby clubs.

All clubs now have local members, Bulolo-Wau being the trend setter with five of six being Papua New Guineans. Bulolo-Wau is the smallest of the PNG clubs in 1996, but member for member their contribution to their community is unsurpassed. PP Alan Landford has the distinction of being named a Paul Harris Fellow by the District for his contribution to Rotary in Bulolo, particularly in relation to the rebuilding of the Bulolo Hospital by FAIM teams during the 1990s.

About half the clubs in PNG have admitted women and Wewak and Port Moresby have been far-sighted in admitting the first local women into Rotary.¹⁹

The majority of members in the PNG clubs are expatriates on short-term contracts and the turnover of membership is considerable. This provides difficulties for the education of new members and for the continuity of club life and projects. PP Graham Price described membership in the Mt Hagen Club,

We now have 12 members in June 1995. Nine members resigned [during the 1994-95 year], due to their leaving PNG, either through contracts completed or due to law and order problems in the Western Highlands. We lost an ex-Rotarian . . . who was murdered in his home in 1994, and more recently . . . was also murdered.²⁰

It should be stressed that it is living in Papua New Guinea, not being a member in a Rotary club, which provides the threat to life and limb. The breakdown of law and order has become a major concern for those living in Papua New Guinea and most Rotarians have stories of an encounter with raskols (Pidgin for "thug" or "gangster") or the difficulties associated with implementing projects and maintaining Rotary facilities that are constantly vandalised.

Forums, a District Conference and Other District Participation

Since 1966 there has been an annual forum (earlier it was called a conference) held in Papua New Guinea, hosted in rotation by the different clubs. This meeting provides an opportunity for the governor, district officials and other Rotary International officers to

meet club members, particularly those who have not had an opportunity to attend the district conference, the Presidents Elect Training Seminar (PETS) or the District Assembly.

It therefore serves many purposes and the program also allows FAIM, SWSL and DiK officers from Australia to contribute to discussions. In addition the Forum allows national and provincial health, welfare and education professionals to meet Rotarians and to discuss projects of mutual interest.

Now known as the Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands Forum, it has been held in PNG for the last thirty years, but will be held in Honiara in the Solomons in 1997 for the first time, to help celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Rotary Club of Honiara. Attendance of two Rotarians at the Forum from each club is subsidised by the district.

The only District 9600 conference to be held outside Queensland was held in Port Moresby in 1980 by then Governor Ben Bennett. Ben became governor for the second time in 1979-80 after nominee Alan Morris withdrew from the position prior to attending the International Assembly. Alan Morris was then a member of the Boroko club, the only time a club outside Queensland has nominated a governor for the District. [He was later to serve as governor of District 964 (9640).]

There were 237 people registered for the conference, a disappointing attendance because many Australian Rotarians had booked to attend on the Russian cruise ship Ivan Franko, which was refused permission to berth in Port Moresby. However, the Rotary International President's Representative, "Skip" Kreidler, rated the conference a huge success. He noted in his report that although "[Rotary] resources are limited, we could not find a more receptive people . . . than those with such tremendous needs in country areas [deserving of help]". This is a significant perception of rural Papua New Guineans which dates from the earliest Rotary contact.

Before describing Rotary programs in PNG, however, acknowledgement should be made of the support given District 9600 governors by a number of dedicated PNG Rotarians, who have acted as group or special representatives, and who have furthered the work of Rotary, usually at their own expense, in a country in which access

to, and communication with, clubs is difficult.

Since 1993 these positions have been upgraded and formalised as part of the world-wide district leadership trial in which District 9600 participated. Phil Parnell (Port Moresby) and Ross Humphries (Lae) filled the position of assistant governor during the period 1993-96.²² Their help with administrative matters such as the official visits by the governor, the organisation of the Forum, the identification of FAIM and SWSL projects, the reception of FAIM-SWSL teams and the administration of DiK consignments is invaluable.

Local Rotary Activities in Papua New Guinea

Harold Hunt reports early community service activities focussing on facilities and social activities for the expatriate community. However, Rotarians soon recognised the health, welfare and educational needs of local people, particularly those in rural areas, and were determined to address these needs.

The early club reports, and the first issues of Rotary Down Under, chronicle these projects: the famous Rotary town clock in Port Moresby; the Togatia Home outside Goroka; support for swimming pools (and carnivals) in Lae and Rabaul; Rotary Park in Madang; park benches and shelter sheds in Wewak (and everywhere else) and the provision of a piano for a mission station outside Mt Hagen.²³

During the time that the Administration was identifying able young Papua New Guineans for future leadership roles, there were many visits to Australia by young people such as teachers, nurses, mechanics and technicians. They often returned with the promise of books and teaching aids, sewing machines, typewriters and equipment and supplies for hospitals and aid posts, schools and workshops and other government and mission institutions, harbingers of what would develop into DiK.

Some of these visits were organised privately by clubs; others were the result of schemes such as RYLA and later the summer schools, being extended to Papua New Guinea. Both Harold Hunt and Ben Bennett provide detailed accounts of such visits and both recognise the work of PDG Allan Male whose contribution to RYLA and the Camp Cal and Shaftesbury Campus RYLA week activities is

remembered fondly by many young PNG men and women.²⁴

FAIM, SWSL, Matching Grants and Donations in Kind

For over 100 years the island of New Guinea, particularly the eastern half, has lured Australians and there is a rich literature of adventurers, traders, miners, missionaries, misfits and administrators satisfying the urge that took them there, often drove them there. Some achieved brilliantly; some failed miserably; some died in the attempt.

Half way through that period there is a watershed when many thousands of young Australian and American men and women went there in a last ditch stand to defend Australia against the threat of Japanese invasion and, with the help of local people, succeeded valiantly, many dying in fierce fighting at places which have entered Australian folklore: Kokoda, Gona and Sananda.

Papua New Guinea, the land and its people, are part of the Australian consciousness and many Rotarians have either been there and want to go back, or have heard stories about it and want to visit. Some, who have experienced malnutrition, dysentery and malaria, have no desire to go back, but they are a minority these days. Rotarian Jeff Bower from the Rotary Club of Great Lakes (District 9650), three-time FAIM volunteer to PNG and the Solomons, published an account of his experiences.²⁵ In his introduction he said:

My father on his return from active service . . . told of his encounters with primitive tribesmen. His stories captivated me . . . As museums and history lessons further revealed the diversity of tribal cultures and traditions, I became obsessively fascinated by remote continents and Pacific Islands.

There are many Rotarians who share Bower's interest, some more or less obsessively. For Australian Rotarians, aware of the need to find opportunities to round out their club programs with international service programs, PNG reaches out; it is close by; has many people who are in great need and who live in isolated locations and the country has developed a political system which cannot deliver equity to its people.

For these reasons FAIM, SWSL, Matching Grants for Humanitarian

Purposes and DiK have flourished in Papua New Guinea, and a history of Rotary in PNG would be incomplete without a brief account of these activities. Most of these projects originate in Australian clubs, but Australian clubs are dependent on PNG Rotarians to help deliver much of their international service program and that nexus is of great significance: it provides opportunities for international understanding and fellowship.²⁶

The earliest FAIM and matching grant projects both date back to the 1966-1967 Rotary year.²⁷ The first FAIM projects appear to be either the construction of buildings for a teachers college at the Mission at Tari, Southern Highlands (1966) or the construction of a wharf at Wasu (1967-8).²⁸ The first matching grant is No 8, dated May 1967, for the provision of a subsidy to Canowindra and Orange Clubs in District 9700 to bring a student from PNG to study agriculture at Wolaroi College in NSW.²⁹

And so, for an unbroken period of thirty years, FAIM teams have gone by 4WD trucks; by helicopters and small planes; by motorised canoes and barges and sometimes on foot to projects selected by clubs in PNG and the FAIM project evaluation teams which now travel to PNG each year. The projects share a common set of guidelines. The local community find most of the materials; they also provide a labour force, which should include people skilled enough to learn how to complete the project if necessary and to extend it to other sites; the FAIM teams do much of the skilled work; provide project management and supervision and help the local people acquire building skills while the local people provide accommodation and supplement food needs.

How to do justice to the hundreds of FAIM and SWSL projects and the thousands of Rotarians who have worked on them over thirty years is a task beyond this history. So a brief description of one project must suffice. It is a diverse project, including the provision of health, water and sanitation services, roads and transport, education and communication facilities. It epitomises much that has been done by FAIM teams in PNG.

Kokoda is a name familiar to most Australians through its wartime associations and a very apt site for FAIM's largest project in Papua New Guinea. The project was conceived at Kokoda on ANZAC Day

1992 when Prime Ministers Keating and Wingti announced a joint project to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the end of World War II.

In the 1994 Federal budget \$1.5m was set aside for the project which was to include the building of a new health centre (subsequently upgraded to a rural hospital which includes patient-family housing); the renovation and expansion of a museum already provided by members of the Kienzle Family, who ran a palm-oil plantation at Kokoda before and after the war; provision of limited hostel accommodation for hikers of the Kokoda Trail and the building of a new airport terminal. Rotary Australia World Community Service was invited to undertake the building of the various facilities of the project.³⁰

FAIM teams arrived in January 1995 and in the first ten months of the project some 200 Rotarians and supporters had completed the buildings to such a stage that the Kokoda Project could be declared open on the twentieth anniversary of PNG Independence, September 16, 1995, by Prime Ministers Keating and Chan.

At that time Prime Minister Keating indicated that funding for stage 2 of the project, which incorporates upgrading road works and the provision of a water supply at Kokoda, and the building of aid posts at Menari and Sogeri further down the Track towards Port Moresby, would be made available. At the time of writing the project is incomplete; but when it is finished, many hundreds of Rotarian FAIM volunteers will have made the journey to Kokoda, paying their own expenses for the opportunity to help commemorate the sacrifice made by Australians so long ago.

Ron Wynn, the Kokoda Project Co-ordinator, writing in the Eastern Region RAWCS Newsletter, captures the essence of the FAIM experience,

When we arrived at Kebara Village near Kokoda we were welcomed as dear friends. The local people's friendship has to be experienced to be understood. They cannot believe that people (Rotarians) would come and work to make their part of the world a better place. We all felt we were doing something worthwhile and it was truly 'Rotary with its sleeves rolled up', especially when our government in Canberra entrusts us with such a big and

important project for both Papua New Guinea and Australia . . . a once in a lifetime experience for volunteers.

Much of the hospital equipment that went into the Kokoda Hospital came from Donations in Kind, a project which Australian Rotarians have taken to their hearts. Since the early part of the nineties, the small consignments of goods such as books, vaccines, technical equipment, sewing machines and the like have grown into container loads of hospital and dental equipment, books and magazines, pharmaceutical drugs and dressings and so on.

Rotarians in Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul, Madang and Wewak unload, store and distribute goods to other clubs and to people in isolated villages throughout Papua New Guinea: a parcel of books to the school at Chevasing in the Markham Valley or a wheel chair for a paraplegic youth in Bulolo.

Once again it is difficult to do justice to those thousands of Rotarians in Australia (and elsewhere) who have arranged for the donation of millions of dollars worth of goods to the people of Papua New Guinea. The key features of this program are that DiK brings Australian and PNG Rotarians together in a shared enterprise which benefits the people in need in Papua New Guinea, and the goods almost certainly get to where they are needed most and are not syphoned off on the way.

Rotary Foundation Matching grants to, and with, Papua New Guinea Clubs number in excess of eighty, made since May 1967. An analysis of the grants indicates that most were for the purchase of equipment, much of it medical. There has been particular support for the supply of equipment to treat vision and hearing impaired people. The provision of portable dental equipment has allowed dental services to be taken to remote villages.

Other well-supported projects are associated with clean water and improved sanitation; the funding of a wide range of seminars and subsidies for visits to and from PNG by various specialists. A number of grants have supported DiK transportation costs. Gaubin Hospital and associated villages on Karkar Island appear to have received four grants, some associated with malaria control.

The largest grant was number 2207, provided in 1991 by District 2650 in Japan, for a total of US \$33,004 for the provision of hospi-

tal equipment in Lae. One of the more unusual was number 515 in February 1981 for the purchase of instruments for a band in Rabaul. District 9600 clubs contributed to this grant which was worth US \$9,591. District 9600 clubs have raised funds for almost half of the grants made available in PNG, but most of the other districts in Australia have sought grants for the support of humanitarian projects in the country.

Finally, in this section dealing with Rotary's humanitarian work in Papua New Guinea, the contribution made by a number of Rotary and Rotary-associated organisations must be recognised. For example, Interplast; the heart team from the Adventist Hospital in Sydney; ROMAC (District 9800 Rotary Overseas Medical Aid Committee), which in 1966 brought the Siamese twins born on Buka Island to Melbourne for separation surgery and District 9600's Gift of Life Program which brings desperately ill children to Brisbane for treatment are just a few of the groups which seek to help people in need.

Summing Up

Rotary has had a presence in Papua New Guinea for nearly 40 years, the second half of that time a fragile presence in an independent Melanesian nation in which intertribal fighting and civil war have been instrumental in closing two clubs (Kundiawa and Arawa) and where two clubs suspended their activities (Goroka because of personal differences between members and Rabaul because of volcanic eruptions).

Only the four clubs in Port Moresby and Lae are able to provide a range of programs which support the four avenues of service. These are also the only clubs where making up on a regular basis is possible. However, the other clubs in Bulolo-Wau, Goroka, Madang, Rabaul, Mt Hagen and Wewak provide such important community services that thoughts of their demise would have to include a realisation that basic levels of health, welfare and education services to many people, who are dependent on churches, missions and service organisations for their well-being, would be reduced. Rotary has a significant presence among these organisations and its long term presence is essential in the communities

which they serve.

Of this latter group of clubs only Goroka has more than 20 members in June 1996. The clubs and their members face difficulties peculiar to their social, political and economic environments: rapid membership turnover; difficulty in attending meetings; no other local clubs at which to make up; civil law and order disturbances in their communities; a range of health and welfare needs among local people which beggar description and an isolation from mainstream Rotary which would deter even the most enthusiastic.

The Rotarians of Papua New Guinea are a special breed. Rotarians in Australia, and in District 9600 in particular, are proud to call them their fellows and for them, there is the utmost admiration. Bill Huntley, Rotary International President in 1994-95, encouraged Rotarians to venture off the beaten track of Rotary experience, "if the way ahead is not your way, then do not follow the path. Go instead where there is no path, and leave a trail behind you." Rotarians in Papua New Guinea have done just that.

NOTES

1 - The name "Papua New Guinea" will be used to describe that part of New Guinea which is now the state of Papua New Guinea. At the time that the first Rotary Clubs were admitted to Rotary in the 1950s the pre-World War II Territory of Papua and the Mandated Territory of New Guinea (formerly German New Guinea from 1884-1914) had been combined for administrative purposes by the Australian Government into the Territory of Papua and New Guinea (1949). In 1971 this became the Territory of Papua New Guinea and in 1975, following Independence, the sovereign state of Papua New Guinea. The early Rotary documents (survey, admission application, list of members etc) however, reflect the long-standing rivalry that existed between the two former colonies and Port Moresby was listed as being in Papua. When Goroka and Lae Rotary Clubs were admitted in 1959, they were sometimes listed as being in New Guinea.

2 - Rotary International, South West Pacific Service Centre, Club Files: Port Moresby (formerly Central Office Files, Secretariat). Correspondence from GS to 500, subject 'Papua (New Guinea)', dated October 9, 1956. This inter-office memo records the early history of enquiries about forming a club in Port Moresby.

3 - Harold Hunt (1971), The Story of Rotary in Australia, 1921-1971,

The First Fifty Years, Halstead Press, Sydney.

4 - Arnold Bennett (1980), Rotary in Queensland, An Historical Survey, Commemorating the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of Rotary, Boolarong Publications, Brisbane.

5 - Terence (Mike) Wood, ex-Bournemouth Rotarian, wrote to R.I. in January 1956, enquiring about the formation of a club. He reported, "the business men are . . . from other countries . . . a native co-operative society is rapidly growing. There are, of course, two distinct groups in the community and contact between them is unlikely for many years." Among the businessmen there were three former Rotarians including the charter president, Bob Willock, who had been a member of the Kempsey Rotary club. There were twenty-two charter members who met at the Papua Hotel, among whom was Dr John Gunther, Deputy Administrator of the Territory. There were no local men in the club.

6 - Bennett, pp.89-93. It had been suggested to Lex Fraser that he should take the opportunity to visit Papua New Guinea, even though it wasn't in his district, during his year by then RI President, Clifford Randell, during a visit by Randell to North Queensland.

7 - Bennett records that Madang was sponsored by Port Moresby club (p.93), but this is incorrect. The official record shows Warren L. Matthews, Head, Service to Clubs Section, Eastern Hemisphere, Rotary International, advising R.I. Director, James F. Conway (Chairman of the Admissions Committee) on August 8, 1962, that "the application documents were received from the club itself on May 21, 1962, together with the charter fee remittance. There was no information from the club as to the part played by the Rotary Club of Goroka or by Lex Fraser in its organisation. The secretary of the Rotary Club of Goroka wrote on May 7, 1962 . . . but in the meantime the documents were received from the club itself".

8 - PDG Frank Hoeter, Pers. Comm. October 1995. Hoeter has copies of the charter night programs for both Goroka and Wewak clubs. Goroka Charter night was held at the Goroka Hotel on May 24, 1960, the charter being presented by Lex Fraser. Wewak's charter function was held on July 17, 1965 at the Wewak Hotel, Lex Fraser again presenting the charter.

9 - The Boroko Rotary club was sponsored by Port Moresby club and admitted to Rotary International on July 13, 1967. The charter was presented by the president of the sponsoring club at a dinner on 16 November 1967. Lloyd Kennedy was the charter president.

10 - For example, Dr John Gunther, the Assistant Administrator, was a charter member of Port Moresby club; Ian Downs, a senior administration officer and author of the official history, The Australian Trusteeship: Papua New Guinea, 1945-75, was a charter member of Goroka club and Horrie Niall, also a senior member of the district administration, was a charter member of the Lae club.

11 - For example, Brigadier Donald Cleland, the Administrator, presented the Port Moresby charter in 1957 and Sir Alan Mann, the Chief Justice of the Territory, opened the First Annual Papua and New Guinea Conference in Goroka in 1966.

12 - One such visitor was PDG Sleath Lowrey from the Rotary Club of North Sydney, who was an R.I. Information and Extension Counsellor in 1962-63. In this role Sleath visited PNG as Hunt notes, "if not to read the riot act, at least to instruct them in certain procedures and the broad aims of Rotary" (p. 87). Sleath Lowrey's report referred to the need for visits by a governor and may have been a prelude to the decision to include PNG in District 255.

13 - There were a number of Rotarians, or former Rotarians, in that first House including Horrie Niall, the Speaker, and Ian Downs, the member for the Highlands Special Electorate. (See note 10).

14 - The early post-WW II Coalition Governments believed that Papua New Guinea would be ready for self government and independence around the turn of the century.

15 - Eliuda (Al) Togatia became a war hero during the Japanese occupation of New Britain. During his time in Goroka, he was a policeman in the Royal Papua New Guinean Constabulary. A short biography of this remarkable man appeared in Rotary Down Under February 1967, pp. 22-23. He was honoured by having a local home for delinquent youth, which was built by FAIM teams outside Goroka, named after him. Togatia died while the writer was making his official visit to the Rabaul club in 1995 and was given a splendid funeral by the Tolai people.

16 - Hunt, p.82. These responses remind the author of discussions held during his official visits to clubs in District 9600 in 1995-96. When the question was raised of women being admitted to clubs, which had yet to admit female members, a fairly common reply was that a woman would be admitted if a suitable one could be found!

17 - Bob Cleland, Past president of Goroka and Kenmore clubs, is a good example. Rotarians such as Bob have local knowledge and experiences which are of great use to the governor of the day.

18 - John Palfreyman, PP of the Arawa Club, was an observant reporter of Rotary activities on Bougainville in Rotary Down Under and his reports can be found in issues between 1986 and 1988.

19 - Sandra Andy was admitted to the Wewak club in the 1993-94 year and is now a member of the Rabaul club; Megan Taureka was admitted to the Port Moresby Club in the 1995-96 year.

20 - Correspondence from President Graham Price to then DG Bill Waterfield, dated June 14, 1995. Graham Price continued on as president in 1995-96, but left Mt Hagen at the end of 1995 when his safety and that of his family were threatened.

21 - The FAIM project evaluation team in recent years has timed its visit to PNG and the Solomons to coincide with the Forum. This allows information on possible projects to be shared. In recent years serving directors Owen McDowell and John Carrick have attended the Forum. Rotary International Past Director, Brian Knowles, brought a delegation of health professionals to the 1996 Forum in Lae to discuss Rotary involvement in PolioPlus in PNG.

22 - Phil Parnell filled the position of Deputy Governor, but Rotary International has recommended that districts throughout the world use the term "assistant governor" in the model of district administration that has been adopted. District 9600 was one of twelve Districts throughout the Rotary world which participated in the three-year trial which concluded in 1995-96.

23 - Problems associated with getting the piano to the Baiyer River Mission rival the difficulties associated with the transport of the instrument to the south island of New Zealand in the movie of the same name. Details are in Rotary Down Under March 1970: pp.22.

24 - See Hunt, pp.83-85 and Bennett, pp.109-111. Hunt's account includes a description of a visit of twelve young people from Papua New Guinea, who not only attended a RYLA camp, but who then went on an extended educational trip to various parts of District 260 (9600).

25 - Jeff Bower (1995), A Passion for the Primitive, A Volunteer's Experiences in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, Tarara, Taree, NSW, 2430.

26 - Keith Hopper, the Founder of FAIM, put it this way: "it [FAIM] has a prime purpose, to get to know our neighbours . . . the education of each Rotarian towards the better understanding of peoples and other colours, race and way of life." The source is to be found in the following note.

27 - PDG Bob Young, Pers. Comm., November 1995. Bob Young and others have documented FAIM activities for the twenty-fifth and thirtieth anniversaries of FAIM. Resources available include a video, produced for a celebration and reunion held at Coffs Harbour in 1989 and A Brief History 1964-1994.

28 - There is reference to the Tari Teachers College in the Brief History, which claims it as a 1966 project and an article in Rotary Down Under November 1970, p.9, which suggests work commenced there in 1970. This

issue is unresolved at publication date.

29 - Rotary Down Under September, 1968, p.9.

30 - PDG Bob Young and PP Ron Wynn provided most of this information. The project was managed by the Director of the Australian War Graves Commission, Air Vice Marshal Alan Heggen, in conjunction with Bob Young and Ron Wynn who co-ordinated the FAIM teams. The PNG Government was represented by officials of the Oro Provincial Government.

31 - Bill Huntley (1995), "You are the Leader" in Speech Book, Rotary International Assembly, Anaheim, Ca, USA, February 19-26, 1995, Rotary International, Evanston.

THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

There is only one Rotary Club in the Solomon Islands, the Rotary Club of Honiara, although the influence of Rotary extends throughout the six major islands and the hundreds of smaller ones that comprise the island nation of just over 300,000 people. Over the last 13 years FAIM teams have ensured the recognition of Rotary in isolated parts of the Solomons through the building of schools, aid posts and water tanks. Rotary wheels are to be seen on these projects.

This briefest of brief histories records the early Rotary presence in the Solomons; the chartering of the Rotary Club of Honiara in 1987; its growth and development as it moves towards its tenth anniversary and the involvement of the wider Rotary world with the Solomon Islands.

Early Rotary activities

There is a common misconception that Rotary arrived in the Solomon Islands after Cyclone Namu devastated the islands of Malaita, Guadalcanal and other islands in Makira Province in May 1986. This isn't so, although there is no doubt that this terrible natural disaster was the catalyst which caused the Rotary Club of Honiara to be admitted to Rotary International in March 1987. The charter dinner was held a few months later.

Soon after the Solomon Islands became an independent nation in July 1978, Australian and New Zealand Rotarian visitors recognised that Rotary World Community Service projects could benefit local

communities, in particular those which were located in the outlying provinces, away from the main population centre on Guadalcanal¹.

Indeed, there was thought of a club in Honiara as early as 1980 when Arthur Moorhouse of the Rotary Club of Nowra, District 9710, completed an Extension Survey, which concluded that a club would 'succeed in approx 2 years'². Arthur was a little optimistic about the time frame, but not in his judgement, and there is no doubt that when the club was formed in 1986, it was a success right from the start.

The Rotary Club of Honiara

In the aftermath of Cyclone Namu the Australian Government in August 1986 invited Rotary, through the National FAIM Co-ordinating Committee, to manage what would become at that time Australian Rotary's largest world community service project - the Solomon Islands Primary School Rehabilitation Project in which 280 FAIM volunteers, both Rotarians and local residents were involved in the re-building of 93 schools. Other references to this project are to be found in a later section of the history, but the implementation of the project explains why hundreds of Rotarians flew into Honiara during the period 1986-88 and spent a few days there before moving on to isolated building sites. Others stayed for a few days of R&R leave on their way back to Australia.

The Governor of District 9600, Dr Jerry Meijer, petitioned the R.I. Board in August 1986 for approval for the extension of Rotary to the Solomon Islands³. The President of Rotary International, M.A.T. Caparas, gave that approval and subsequently the boundaries of Rotary International District 9600 were extended to include the Solomon Islands, a largely Melanesian community, similar in many ways to Papua New Guinea. (Presumably a case could have been made to include the country in New Zealand District 9910 which includes the Melanesian communities of Vanuatu.)

The Rotary Club of Honiara started meeting early in 1987 and was admitted to Rotary International on March 27, 1987. The Charter dinner was held on May 23, 1987 at the Hibiscus Hotel (now the King Solomon Hotel). Derrin Davis, the charter president, had been

a member of the Goonellabah club, District 9640, and the secretary was Ken Ferris, a former Rotarian from Goroka and the proprietor of the hotel, where many of the FAIM teams stayed while in Honiara. Altogether, there were twelve former Rotarians among the thirty charter members.

With such a nucleus of former members and the advice of experienced Rotarians such as Past District Governors Ken Boyd of Bega, District 9710 and George Lake of Wynnum and Manly, District 9630, who were resident supervisors/managers of the Schools Rehabilitation project, the club got off to a good start⁴. Of the charter members only Jeff Moore was still a member at the commencement of Rotary year 1996-97.

Jeff is a permanent resident of the Solomons but most expatriate members (and they are in the majority in the club) come to Honiara on a contract for a fixed period, often two years. When they "go finish", the people who replace them often take over their accommodation, their household help, and if they are interested, their memberships in the golf club, the Rotary club and so on. The completion of contracts means that a considerable membership turnover is normal, but that replacements will be found readily.

Ten Years On

The Rotary Club of Honiara has nearly doubled in size since 1987 and near the end of the 1995-96 Rotary year has 50 members after reaching a high of 56 in June 1995. The membership comprises both men and women: local people, and expatriates from Australia, New Zealand, the UK and the United States. The president in its tenth year will be Dr Steve Aumanu, a local medical general practitioner⁵.

Besides being a service club, the club also serves an important social function in Honiara, bringing people from all ethnic groups together for a series of activities that have been imported, largely from Australia. Centrepiece of the local Rotary social and fund-raising calendar is the Melbourne Cup celebration, which features the running of the Cup (on TV at the Golf Club); a fashion parade and assorted high jinks until dawn the following day. An annual ball, golf days, progressive dinners, fun run, Gong Show (a revue), barbecues

and picnics indicate that Rotary fellowship and fundraising are little different from that in Australia.

In a community which has pressing social and financial needs, it is understandable that the proceeds of most fundraising goes to local charities, although the club contributed significantly to The Rotary Foundation through PolioPlus and has awarded three Paul Harris Fellowships⁶.

The Annual Reports in recent years show that the club has supported the Red Cross Handicapped Children's Centre; the Honiara Hospital, particularly the children's ward, (and other outlying hospitals); the Honiara Town Library; the former Lions children's playground and the St John Ambulance Brigade. An impressive Preserve Planet Earth project has involved the planting of trees in various parts of Honiara over the last three years.

Many expatriate Rotarians "go finish" in Honiara at the end of each year as their contracts expire, so Christmas assumes an important part of the Rotary calendar. Besides farewell functions, end-of-year festivities feature a Carols by Candlelight evening and the donation of gifts to hospital patients in Honiara. Year round, the women of the club provide a weekly trolley service to the hospital by dispensing small food items, such as buns and sweets, to patients.

Youth programs are of great significance in the club which has regularly sent young people to both Victoria and Queensland RYLA weeks, visits which have sometimes incorporated work experience. Secondary school students participate in the Pacific Area Cultural Exchange within District 9600 and with District 9640 and attend the various summer schools run during the school vacation at Christmas.

Students from the Solomon Islands College of Higher Education (SICHE) are supported in various ways, including their subsidy to attend events such as the South Pacific Games. There is an Interact Club at King George VI High School (KGVI), a selective secondary boarding school for boys and girls from all parts of the Solomon Islands. This Interact club is the only one currently operating in the PNG/SI part of District 9600. KGVI students were given the opportunity to participate in an extra-curricular careers education day,

run by the club, in 1996.

Immunisation against childhood diseases is effectively implemented in the Solomons by the Department of Health where diseases such as polio and measles are rare, although community health was identified as one of the major concerns by visiting Rotarians, and an area where expertise and financial support could be provided. However, the health risk which concerned all early Rotarian visitors, who had been advised to take chloroquin and maloprim regularly when they visited the Solomons, was malaria.

Malaria is the major health risk to the people of the Solomon Islands, where in some parts of the country, 400 per 1000 are inflicted with the disease in some form. In recent years Rotarian medical doctors such as Dr Brian Manley, District 9680⁷, have helped promote an interest in malaria in the countries of the S W Pacific, and there is now Australia-wide Rotary support for a malaria program being conducted by the Rotary Club of Honiara over a five-year period which has as its objective the reduction of malaria incidence to less than 100 per 1000 population in the trial centres⁸.

General Rotary Involvement

As has been shown, it was concerns of a health, hunger and humanitarian nature that brought Rotarians in numbers to the Solomons in the first place and those concerns are still relevant today in a country in which limited natural resources have been poorly managed; where literacy and health standards are poor; where social welfare facilities are limited (particularly away from Honiara) and where a dispersed and often isolated population makes it difficult to provide equity in the distribution of the nation's very limited wealth.

The Solomons are fertile ground for Rotary clubs aware of how FAIM, DiK, SWSL, IPAC and 3H and matching grants can become part of the club's Fourth Avenue of Rotary Service. That Australian, and to a lesser extent New Zealand, UK and US clubs have responded, is testimony to their becoming involved in international service; to their response to the recent colonial past and to the fading memories of lost lives in World War II battles.

That generosity and that support are greatly appreciated among

Honiara Rotarians, members of church and mission societies, officers of the government and public service, and of course, by the beneficiaries of Rotary-initiated projects, themselves. But there are also two major attendant problems and these should be put on record.

Firstly, there is the problem of co-ordination of aid activities, whether it be the arrival of teams such as SWSL and FAIM volunteers or the receipt of containers of DiK goods. For example, the unco-ordinated arrival of container loads of donations from different RAWCS Regions places great demands on the members of the club to unload, repack and distribute goods to communities in need, spread throughout the Solomons, and every District 9600 Governor hears of this concern in one way or another⁹.

Secondly, the people in some parts of the Solomons have been given so much aid that they are in danger of developing a mendicant mentality. The Honiara club, and many of the aid societies with which they work, are at great pains to redress this perception by ensuring that local people help themselves, which also helps in combatting the notion that Rotarians are patronising. This outcome can be achieved by having local people working on, and contributing in whatever financial way available, to Rotary-supported projects, or by helping in the distribution and transport of aid goods¹⁰.

The extent to which Rotary clubs have contributed to the Solomons is difficult to quantify but articles in Rotary Down Under suggest that there have been more than one hundred FAIM/IPAC/SWSL teams, which have visited the Solomons since Cyclone Namu¹¹. The Co-ordinator of the Northern District Donations in Kind Committee in his report indicated that in Rotary year 1994-95 goods worth \$A282,960 had been shipped to Honiara that year¹².

The Rotary Foundation Matching Grant statistics also suggest that a considerable amount of aid has been contributed to the Solomons. The provision of goods and services in this program has been facilitated by understanding and supportive staff members in Evanston. District 9600 and the Rotary Club of Honiara were fortunate to have a visit from Rotary Foundation Secretariat

staffer, Barbara Welch (Kraemer) in Rotary year 1991-92¹³. Barbara's first-hand knowledge of conditions and projects in the Solomons has enabled the District to move projects through The Rotary Foundation reporting procedures quickly and effectively.

Summing Up

The Rotary Club of Honiara is an asset not only to Rotary District 9600, but also to Rotary in Australia because it provides a window on the world of the Solomons Islands for all Rotarians and a willing agency for international service activities.

It is well respected in District affairs and, in its brief period of service, has won the Herrington Shield for the best club bulletin for their Newsletter, Nguzunguzu (1992) and the Doug Biggs Trophy for balanced club achievement in PNG/SI (1995).

There is an understanding among senior and long-serving club members that the club will investigate sponsoring a second club when numbers exceed sixty and a more stable membership results from the admission of an increased number of local members. This will most likely be in the Chinatown area of Honiara. The obvious advantages of a second club are that it provides another Rotary meeting at which to make up and a second host club for matching grants in the Solomon Islands. Hopes are also held for the formation of a Rotaract Club and a Rotary Village Corps. The latter would be a first for this district.

The Club will no doubt move cautiously on extension because the Rotary Club of Honiara is unique in the Solomon Islands where it has an admirable reputation for service above self and is perceived as a valuable community asset, respected among all sections of Solomons society.

NOTES

1 - Rotary Down Under July 1982. Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Amidale, District 9650, used to "pass the coconut" to collect money for a project aimed at supporting the United Church's Helena Goldie Training College at Munda on New Georgia Island, Western Province. This was an IPAC project in support of the Club's World Understanding and Peace initiative.

Rotary Down Under April 1983, p.13 and August 1983, pp.13-14. Another early overseas service project was mounted by the Rotary Clubs

of Beecroft, Carlingford, Gosford and Riverwood, New South Wales, District 9680, which sent the first FAIM teams to the Solomons in 1983. These teams constructed a library and classroom block at Choiseul Bay, Choiseul, Western Province.

2 - R.I., S W Pacific Service Centre Archives, Rotary Clubs, Honiara.

Extension Survey dated 28 July 1980.

3 - Jerry Meijer's letter to Rotary International, dated 11 August 1986, referred to a number of former Rotarians, who were resident in the Solomons. Rotarian Millard Penney, Rotary Club of Bloomfield, Colorado, who was working with the US Peace Corps in the Santa Cruz Islands, completed the Extension Survey.

4 - PDG George Lake, pers. comm., November 1995. Besides George himself, who proposed the toast to the Rotary Club of Honiara, DG Jerry and DGN Bob Herrington of District 9600 were both present, Jerry presenting the charter and Bob proposing the toast to R.I.

5 - 1995-96 president is Mick O'Connor. Charter president Derrin Davis served two full terms.

6 - The Paul Harris Fellows named by the Club are Catherine Anilafa (1993); Laurie Howell (1994) and Wayne Morris (1996). Cathie Anilafa is the Director of the Red Cross Handicapped Childrens Centre in Honiara, which is supported by clubs in Districts 9600, 9640 and 9750.

7 - R.I. District 9680, Rotary Against Malaria, Revised Edition (1995). Dr Hanley is the chairman of the District 9680 RAM committee, which has produced a considerable amount of technical material on malaria control. NZ District 9910, the territory of which includes the island nation of Vanuatu, has produced a similar publication, which was submitted to the R.I. Board of Directors for consideration as a PolioPlus-type program.

8 - The Honiara club RAM program is jointly sponsored by AusAID, the Solomons Government, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Rotary. It was opened in September 1995 by the Minister for Health, the Hon Gordon Mara, in front of representatives of the media, the churches and WHO as well as the writer, who was there in his capacity as Governor of District 9600. Rotarians in Australia have supported the RAM project by purchasing \$A5.00 RAM stickers. Rotary's contribution is in excess of \$SI 200,000 in a \$SI 500,000 project.

9 - District 9600 Governor Alan McCray in a letter to all Australian governors, dated 19 November 1991, urged clubs to consult with local Rotarians before making "a (international aid) commitment to what seems a good idea". Alan was referring to Australian clubs deciding what was a good project (and often implementing it) before consulting with local Rotarians.

10 - Brother George SM, Director of the Stuyvenberg Training Centre, Kira Kira, Makira, in a letter of thanks, dated August 21, 1992, to The Save the Children's Fund (Victoria) and the Balwyn (District 9800) and Honiara Rotary Clubs for a donation to the Centre, wrote:

We are building the Centre with the assistance of fifteen volunteers . . . Aside from building we are training forty-four students in skills which will improve the lives of people in their villages . . . we hope to encourage young people to stay home and utilise their resources . . . one of the biggest problems today is the urban drift where many find no hope for their futures.

11 - PDG Dick White (District 9690), "In the Right Place at the Wrong Time", RDU June 1987, provides estimates of numbers and expenditure in the Primary Schools Rehabilitation Project. "Cyclone Rotary picks up after Namu", RDU December-January 1987-88, also provides similar details. Dick White was the Chairman of the FAIM Solomon Islands Primary Schools Rehabilitation Committee.

Carol Jackson (Australian High Commission, Honiara), "Disaster in the Solomons", RDU March 1987, provides details of the Australian Government response to the Solomon Islands Government.

Other descriptive material about WCS/RAWCS/FAIM projects is to be found in "Cyclone Namu Wrecked It - Mangere Rotarians (New Zealand District 9920) Restored It", RDU August, 1987 and "Appeal for Solomon Islands Cyclone Victims" RDU August 1986.

Jeff Bower (1995), A Passion for the Primitive, Tarara, Taree, NSW, 2 4 3 0 contains Great Lakes Rotary Club (District 9650) member Jeff's account of three FAIM trips. Included is an extensive narrative of one of the primary school rebuilding projects at Tawaimare Village, Malaita in 1987.

12 - John Paskin, Northern Region DiK Coordinator, in his report to the Northern Region, dated 23 August 1995, reported that nineteen containers were sent to various parts of the S W Pacific and S E Asia in 1994-95. Total freight costs were \$26,544 while the estimated value of goods sent was \$1.975m. Three of these containers went to Honiara where the average freight cost was \$1586.

13 - The following twenty-two Matching Grants have been identified with the Honiara Club as host:

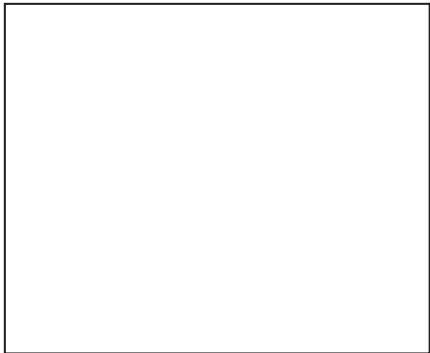
56 (District 9650, 1990); 165 (Christchurch East, District 9970, New Zealand, 1991); 185 (Districts 9800 and 9600, 1991); 237 (District 9810, 1991); 1288 (Alstonville, District 9640, 1988); 1387 (Samford Valley, District 9600, 1988); 1581 (Taree, District 9650, 1989); 1597 (St Clair, District 6330, USA, 1989); 2009 (District 9650, 1991); 2118 (Christchurch, District 9970, NZ, 1991); 2138 (District 9600, 1991); 2391 (Maroochydore, District 9600, 1991); 2489 (Mt Coot-tha, District 9600, 1992); 2645 (Nambour 76, District 9600 and Gifu South, District 2630, Japan, 1992); 2687 (Camberwell, District 9800, 1992); 2824 (New Farm, District 9600, 1992); 3663 (Dandenong, District 9820, 1994);

4068 (District 9600); 4353 (Tauranga South, District 9930, New Zealand); 4593 (Toorak, District 9800 and Kippa Ring, District 9600, 1994); 4833 (Prosser, District 5060 USA, 1995) and 4841 (District 9680, 1995).

Other Matching Grants awarded to the Solomon Islands, prior to the formation of the Honiara Rotary Club, are as follows:

10 (Huntley and Pukekohe, District 9920, 1967); 501 (Dandenong Central, District 9820 and Springvale and Keysborough, District 9810, 1980); 504 (District 1130, UK, 1981); 873 (Southport Broadwater, District 9640, 1985); 948 (Nambour and Maroochydore, District 9600 and Gifu East, District 2630, Japan, 1985); 1072 (Port Macquarie, District 9650, 1986); 1098 (Mangere, District 9920, New Zealand, 1986); 1142 (Districts 9550, 9570 and 9630, 1987).

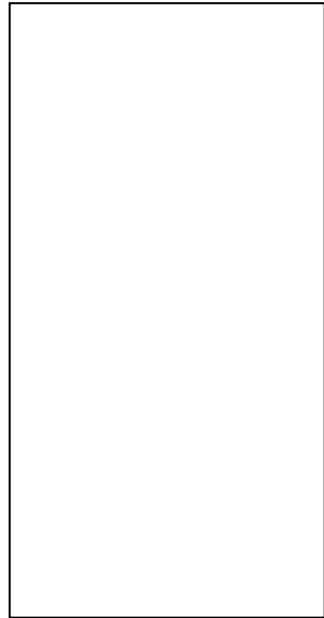
Attending Rotary conferences and meetings can be dangerous. When Paul Harris visited Australia in 1935 he was "held up" by a gang led by Angus Mitchell near Melbourne. And after boasting, in Hobart, that he lived in the city with the reputation of being the world's most dangerous but had never been held up, another gang of desperadoes, this time from Hobart club, treated him to another hold up.



The Hobart Gang.

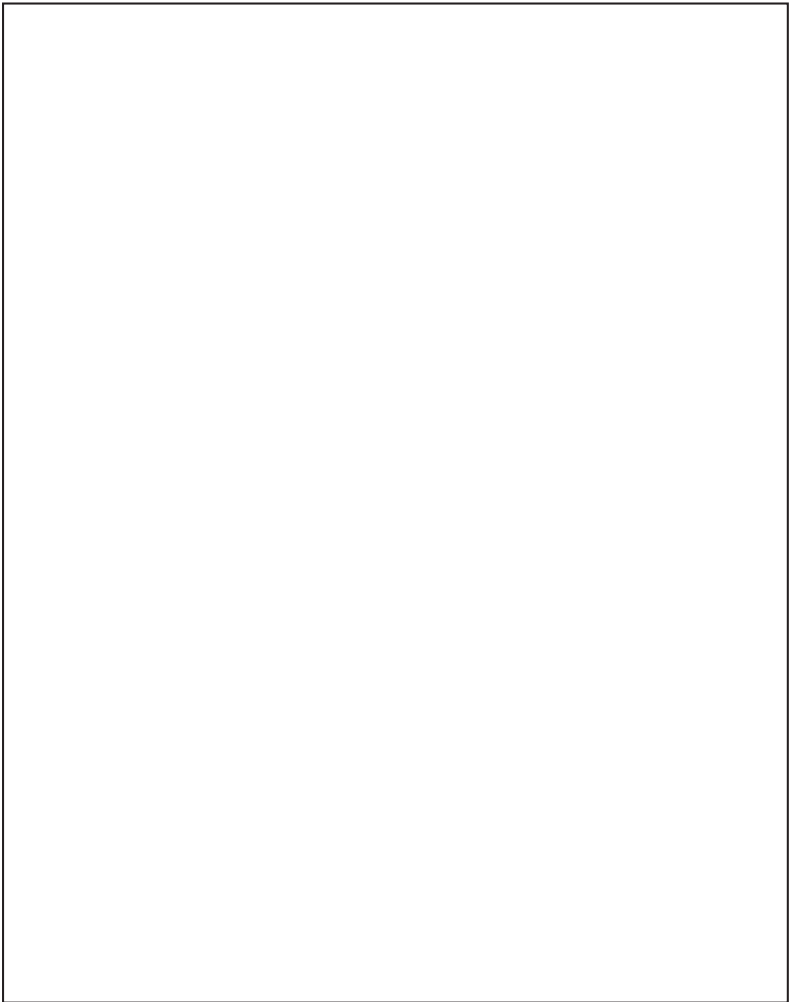


The Melbourne Gang.

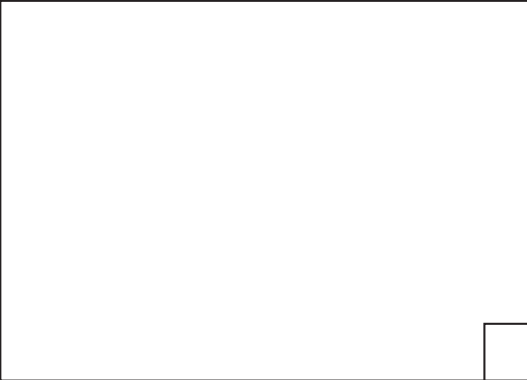


Above - When Colonel Harland Sanders, of "Finger-lickin' good" (Kentucky Fried Chicken) fame visited Sydney for the 1971 convention he made up at several Rotary clubs, including Mosman, which meets at Taronga Zoo, overlooking Sydney Harbour. At South Sydney he was fined for failing to lick his fingers after the meal.

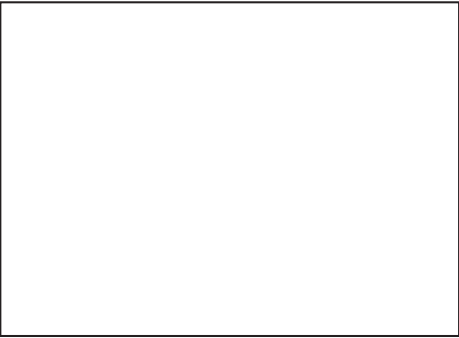
Left - Funny place to shear a sheep!
Demonstration of one aspect of Australia's primary industry on stage at the 1971 convention



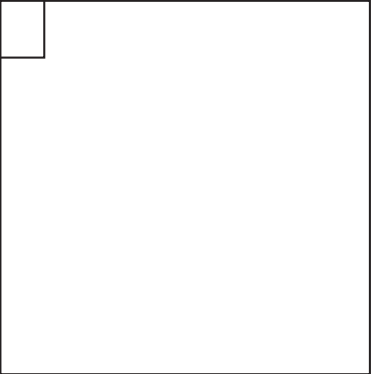
Comic characters such as The Phantom and Superman are very popular in Papua New Guinea. District 9750 published Dokta Daniel, which features a comic-book hero, who deals with health and nutrition issues, for distribution in PNG schools. The chewing of buai (betel nut) for example, leads to cancer of the mouth and gums. Other drugs, cigarettes and alcohol are featured in this page of the comic.



Popular 1973-74 Rotary International President Bill and Olive Carter from Britain enjoyed several visits to Australia, always finding the natives friendly. During his visit during his presidential year, Bill gave a memorable address to the Rotary Club of Adelaide, which was celebrating its golden anniversary, and was able to tell Rotary's story to a wider audience as ABC guest of honour.



Rotarian Sir Edmond Hillary was a speaker at the 1971 convention.



Below - Clarence, the giant computer with all the answers, unveiled as expatriate Canadian Rotarian Larry Corbett (right) for The Rotarian "interviews" Leon Becker about Rotary in the Antipodes at the 1971 convention in Sydney.

Above - In Sydney in 1969 to prepare for the 1971 convention were members of the convention committee, host club committee and local district officers. They are, from left, Harry Thompson (UK), Joji Yasuno (Japan), A.D.G. Stewart (Australia), Eric Solomon (Host Club President), Dr. F. Wayne Graham (USA), J.R. Stevenson (Australia), Charles M. Schmidt (USA), George Means (RI General Secretary), DGN Harry Pickett (268, Australia), Convention Manager Marlin Tabb, DG Ron Pate (275, Australia), DG Tom Howieson (268, Australia).

