

## EPILOGUE

by Glen Kinross  
President Elect, 1997-98  
Rotary International

**D**URING its long history dating back to 1905, Rotary International has evolved into an association with a network of member clubs spread throughout 154 countries and 38 geographical regions; and one of those countries is Australia. Seventy five years of Rotary in Australia is a long time. It's been a time of growth, numerically and in service, and the momentum that has driven the numerical increase and which has also powered the development of many of Rotary International's outstanding programs and its projects, has not diminished.

Having completed the first 75 years of Rotary in Australia we know full well that our service has not matched the needs of society. Societal ills will never be met by providing public conveniences nor community facilities. They will be met by keeping in the currency of people's minds those issues which need to be addressed and how these problems can be solved.

As we look back from whence Rotary has come and as we look forward to what it might become in the future, it seems critical that Rotary clubs must begin to make their mark on their own communities as an influential group of leading business and professional people concerned about their community and its needs. If Rotary is ever going to achieve its potential for good, now is the time to act in its own right rather than remain a tool for others to use in achieving their aims through the human and material resources of Rotary. Clubs are increasingly becoming fund-raising machines for other organisations who are well able to raise their own funds. This direction will not contribute to Rotary's potential and will not attract the business and professional leaders of a community into membership. Such people want to be involved in leadership activities. They want to see the organisation they serve recognised by the community for its leadership role in whatever avenues of service it chooses to follow.

The future of Rotary in Australia will be determined by its ability

to attract the business and professional leaders into its member clubs. With such leadership, Rotary will continue to serve, as it has done and as is recorded in this book, the young, the elderly, the communities at home and abroad, in the workplace, in medicine and, most importantly, in doing all of those things, it will serve the world in a pathway to peace.

Glen Kinross