

## 1967-68

<b>President</b>	<b>Eric Baker</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>George Watts</b>
<b>Secretaries</b>	<b>Jack Gribble/Ross Wilson</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Pat Northeast</b>
<b>Directors</b>	<b>Ian McArthur - Club Service</b> <b>Gordon Cowley – Community Service</b> <b>Harold Errey - Vocational Service</b> <b>Don McKenzie - International Service</b>

**District Governor Bill Sones, Geelong West**

### **R.I. Theme - “ Make Your Rotary Membership Effective”**

The induction of Eric Baker as the third President of the Rotary Club was held at the Cobden Civic Hall in early July 1967. Guest speaker was Rev. Blanksby who gave a witty and inspiring talk on the “Life of a Parson.”

The passing of Charter member Alex Eales in August 1967 at the age of 61 years was a sad moment for the community and Club. Alex was the Officer In Charge of the Forestry Department for the Heytesbury area for nine years.

Secretary Jack Gribble resigned from the Club in September 1967 pending his transfer in the State Savings Bank to Ballarat and Ross Wilson was appointed to act as Secretary for the remainder of the year.

The Rotary Club held a Social Afternoon on Saturday, October 1, 1967 to discuss the formation of a Senior Citizens’ Club in Cobden. Guest speaker was Mr. R. White, director of the Old Peoples’ Welfare Council of Victoria. Over fifty enthusiastic people attended the afternoon and overwhelmingly decided to form a Senior Citizens Club with Rotary donating \$25 to get the ball rolling. Two weeks later a Club had been formed with Jack Neal elected President.

During late 1967 the Directors had begun exploring the possibility of hosting a student from New Guinea following an enthusiastic response from Mrs. Porter, wife of Bishop Porter, Ballarat. Mrs Porter was an ex missionary of New Guinea and “ suggested we contact the Church of England Mission School, Popondetta, New Guinea.”

The highlight of the Rotary year was the arrival in Cobden of eighteen year old Michael Bejiji in late January 1968 who was hosted by Rotarians and their families during his two year stay. Michael’s first home was with Dulcie and Don McKenzie and

he attended Camperdown High School where he successfully completed his matriculation in 1969. Michael was appointed a school prefect for year 1969 and he played cricket for the Cobden Cricket Club in "B" Grade showing much enthusiasm for the game.

Ten Rotarians attended the March 1968 District Conference at Lorne.

The Club's Maytime Ball was a great success with over three hundred people enjoying the music from Ballarat's popular Vibratones Orchestra. The Ball was well reported in The Cobden Times, Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1968.

Guest speakers during the year included Olympic horseman Bill Roycroft, Heytesbury settlers Jim Smith and Bill Horspole, Camperdown dairy farmer John Ryan, Rev. Father McKenzie, members Jim Luker, Ian Errey and Doctor Bill Barrett, Olympic runner John Landy, Kraft Foods Simpson manager, Graham Bell and Mrs J.A. Bell of Camperdown who spoke about Guides and Brownies at Sherbrooke Lodge. Cobden RSL President Jim Niblett speaking about ANZAC and Max Burnett of Camperdown on computers also addressed the club.

The Rotary Club launched its first "Courtesy Week" contest in late May 1968 with a total of 2,036 votes being recorded. The Most Popular Shop Assistant by public vote was won by Miss Marlene Howard employed by self service grocer F. Roberts and the winner judged by a "secret panel" was Noelene White who works at Rix's Clothing Store. Both winners attended a Rotary meeting to receive congratulations and their prize - \$10.