

## 1969-70

<b>President</b>	<b>George Crawford</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Keith Errey</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Eric Baker</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>David Manuell</b>
<b>Directors</b>	<b>Charlie Oates - Club</b> <b>John Blake - Community</b> <b>Tom Bartholomew - Vocational</b> <b>Ross Wilson - International</b>

**District Governor Walter White, Mount Gambier**

### **R.I. Theme - “ Review and Renew”**

Guest speaker at the change over dinner was former Rotary Technical Award student Mr. Bill Stevens who spoke on “Aspects of life” in Los Angeles, USA.

Weekly dinner speakers included Mr Bill McIntyre, of Warrnambool, the district Inspector of schools; Colac Rostrum Club members; the Rev. David Fotheringham on the Freedom From Hunger Campaign; Camperdown Rotarian Dick Parkes speaking on RYLA; the Reverend Packett, of Camperdown, who delivered the traditional Christmas message at the club’s Christmas dinner and the High Commissioner for Singapore, Mr. P.S. Ramen who addressed the Club in March, 1970. Rotarian Graham Bell, manager of Kraft Foods Ltd., Simpson was the host for the October 23, 1969 meeting hosting Cobden Rotarians and guests to dinner and a tour of the factory.

A number of Rotarians were among the 78 who attended the Rotary Club of Camperdown’s twenty first anniversary dinner at the Commercial Hotel on Monday, November 10, 1969. Charter President Arch Gunner was guest speaker.

Another waste rags and materials drive was launched during November with six bales being collected. Stan Coad ( Glenice ) and Alec Maynard ( Val ) were inducted at the weekly meeting on December 4, 1969.

Rotarians and wives farewelled Michael Bejiji who had been a guest of the Club for two years whilst attending Camperdown High School. Michael returned to Papua New Guinea on Monday, December 15, 1969 to continue his schooling. Michael had received a gift from members of the Cobden Cricket Club where he had played ‘B’ Grade for two seasons. This first hosting of an overseas student was a wonderful experience for

the club and many Rotary families still fondly recall their 'son' from Papua New Guinea. "Rotarian Ken Stepnell's last view of Michael on Monday morning was of him disappearing into the DC9 at Essendon with a cricket ball in one hand and a brand new bat in the other, a present from the Barrett children." ( The Cobden Times, December 17, 1969 ). Michael attended the University of Papua and New Guinea in 1970 after being granted a scholarship by the Administration.

The following Rotary year members were asked to decide "which of the Club projects for the previous year had been the most worthwhile," and it was agreed that it had been the hosting of Michael. Rotarian Sam Ralph duly wrote up the article which was published in Rotary Down Under, October, 1971, the first time Cobden Rotary was read in print.

Cobden's first Rotary Youth Leadership Awardee was Rotarian Jack and Shirley Langley's daughter Rosemary who attended R.Y.L.A. at Geelong Grammar School in April 1970 along with 68 other Rylarians.

The Cobden community and Rotary suffered a great loss in April 1970 when local Pharmacist and Rotarian Eric Baker collapsed and died of a heart attack whilst in Melbourne. Eric was a Charter member, Past President of the Rotary Club in 1967/68 and was the current Secretary.

It was agreed at the May 1970 director's meeting that 100 trees be planted in the Technical School grounds.

The May 21<sup>st</sup>, 1970 meeting saw visiting Cobden Apexians debate "that abortion laws in Australia should be liberalised." No evidence was discovered as to who won the debate, does anyone remember?

The following week a ladies night was held at the Commercial Hotel, Camperdown at a cost of \$2 per head with Rotary ladies free!

The Club ended the Rotary year with a membership of 33.