

## 1979-80

<b>President</b>	<b>Geoff Walsgott</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Stan Coad</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Jim Luker</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Keith Errey</b>
<b>Directors</b>	<b>Club - Jim L. Walsh, Community – Max Nelson, Vocational - Fred Vermay, International – Bill Barrett and Youth – Jack Morris</b>

**District Governor Geoffrey Betts, Geelong**

**R.I. Theme - "Let Service Light The Way"**

Incoming President Geoff Walsgott was inducted by his father Keith a Rotarian and Past President of the Dimboola club at the changeover dinner held at Simpson. Exchange student Mina Kawagoe gave a rendition of a traditional Japanese dance during the evening.

D.G. Geoff and Betty Betts visited Cobden on August 9, 1979 his first official function and advised members that Rotary's 75<sup>th</sup> world wide project would be the 3H program - health, hunger and humanity.

The Rotary club hosted a drug awareness evening on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1979 in the Civic Hall when over 200 people heard two Odyssey House residents relate their personal experiences.

A combined Southdown golf and bowls day saw a profit of over \$800 and gave many the chance to showcase their sporting prowess.

In January 1980 Natalie Smith of Cobden flew out for a year exchange in the city of Davo with a population of 500,000 on the island of Mindinao the Philippines.

Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 1980 was a red letter day for the club when Rotary Park ( the Lake ) was officially opened by Heytesbury Shire President Cr. Tony Bailey. A Rotary plaque placed on a monumental stone was unveiled in wet and windy conditions completing almost 10 years of work by Rotarians and the community assisted by the Shire.

Rotary President Geoff Walscott said - "Cobden has a beautiful park within two blocks of the main shopping area, where locals and visitors can relax and enjoy the peaceful surroundings."

Not letting matters rest Rotary wrote to the Shire asking for consideration of a proposal to erect a comfort station at Rotary Park. Costs were estimated at \$12,000 and an application to the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation was submitted. President Geoff pursued the matter and had preliminary talks with the Apex Club of Cobden regarding this as a joint project.

Catering began as a Rotary feature in March 1980 when Rotarians and partners catered at the Nisbett's "Derwent" Stud cattle sale netting over \$1,000 for their efforts. This money was invested on fixed deposit and earmarked for the Nursing Home Annex to be built at the Cobden Bush Nursing Hospital.

Kevin Tesselaar attended RYLA held at Bendigo in May and the Old time "Jinx Night" ball held in June was a great night as patrons danced to 'The Wedderburn Oldtimers.' A profit of \$730 resulted from the evening with supper costing \$280!

During the year Rotaract membership dwindled dramatically but Rotaractors still enjoyed an active year under the presidency of John Mitchell assisted by Secretary Heather Petrie.

Cobden lost Rotarian and local newsagent Fred Vermay when he left to take over the Dimboola Hotel. Three new members were inducted - ex Apexian Frank Hodgson, David Greaves and Don Dickson and club membership ended the year at 25.