

1993-94

President	Alan Hart
President Elect	Kevin Johnston
Secretary	Bob Anderson
Treasurer	Ian Pollard
Directors	Club - John Wiggins Community - Stan Coad Vocational - Peter Daffy International - Ian Holmes Youth - Kevin Johnston
	District Governor Dennis Wilson, Geelong

R.I. Theme "Believe In What You Do – Do What You Believe In"

Shire President Cr. Jo Anderson was amongst guests at the changeover dinner entertained by tenor Phil Bernoth accompanied by Barbara Anderson on the piano.

D.G. Dennis and Kathleen Wilson paid a visit on August 12 and a week later Rotary hosted the combined service clubs dinner where over 70 people were addressed by former Cobden Rotary exchange student Lynette Lowndes about mental illness in Victoria's South West.

Highlight of the year was the announcement in July 1993 that Rotary was going to build a miniature railway at the former Cobden racecourse. Rotarian John Wiggins, a miniature train enthusiast of 20 years believed it could be a goer and a visit was made to 3 Melbourne railway parks to study the layouts, sheds, track, costings etc and then an application was made to the Heytesbury Shire for a low cost loan. Community support was overwhelming and the application for a Planning Permit appeared in The Cobden Times, Wednesday, August 11, 1993. After an on site inspection with Council followed by the approval of plans work proceeded at a furious pace and earthworks began in early February 1994. Almost 300 trees were planted at Railway Park in late March and a station built by local bricklayer Ritchie Jehu began to appear. Sponsors day was held in May 1994 with the official opening being on Sunday, June 19 when D.G. Dennis Wilson opened the Cobden Miniature Railway. This was a 'red letter' day and Railway Park has continued to grow and provide untold enjoyment to not just locals but people from across Victoria and overseas.

The club suffered a huge loss in October with the passing of Jim F. Walsh who had been a member for 26 years.

The second Collectables Fair in November was another great success receiving great support from collectors in the local district including Rob Oates' 1952 Morris Minor which just squeezed through the door!

A 'new' raffle appeared in the form of a child's metal pedal car, a bright yellow 'T' model ford which made a profit of just over \$900.

The AGM breakfast at the Cobden Roadhouse was well attended and wooden toy making at the Tech continued. The Rotary/Southdown Golf day in December saw almost \$600 raised. Another 'first' was breakfast catering for the Tech School staff on Friday December 17 with Joan McQuinn's pancakes voted number one! The tidy sum of \$186 was raised.

The spinning wheel appeared at the Chamber of Commerce Christmas street promotion and raised \$240 and the 'T' model pedal car drawn that night was won by local Jennifer Kripp.

Rebecca Loving left for Jackson Hole, Wyoming, USA in mid January 1994 but unfortunately Rebecca returned home in April 1994 finding it difficult to be apart from her parents and four younger sisters.

First runner home was Warrnambool's Judy McDowall followed by Alistair Alexander in a field of 57 and first walker home was Noelene Richards of Timboon in the annual Fun Run/Walk in February.

Good Friday golf saw 85 golfers play and a sum of \$600 raised which was split between the Royal Children's Hospital and Heytesbury Aged Care Appeals. A week later the third successful Garden Expo netted just over \$900.

The club hosted RYLA at Kangarooie, Princetown in April with Glenice and Stan Coad acting as camp 'mum and dad' to the 56 Rylarians during a very successful week indeed. Cobden's RYLA representative was Michelle Nimmo.

The Rotary year ended with the opening of Railway Park followed by six Rotarians travelling to Cobden, New Zealand as part of the Cobden Connection. Make ups at the Greymouth and Christchurch Sunrise breakfast clubs added to the enjoyment and saw the year end on a truly International note.