

## 1996-97

<b>President</b>	<b>Gary Kimber</b>
<b>President Elect</b>	<b>Alan Hart</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Jim L. Walsh</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Kevin Johnston</b>
<b>Directors</b>	<b>Club - Bob Anderson</b> <b>Community - Don Rawlings</b> <b>Vocational - Frank Martin</b> <b>International - Stan Coad</b> <b>Youth - Kevin Johnston</b> <b>Railway - Ron Merrigan</b>

**District Governor Geoff Anderson, Highton**

### **R.I. Theme - "Build The Future With Action and Vision"**

Gary Kimber was inducted as President at the changeover dinner at the Golf Club on Saturday, June 15 and the club farewelled exchange student Natalie Ehler.

Cobden almost became a ghost town when 74 ( including 6 Rotarians ) flew out to Canada and the USA for the Cobden Connection for 3 weeks. Make ups were made in both countries as international friendships were further strengthened.

Rotary hosted the combined service clubs dinner at the golf club being entertained by Camperdown High school Principal and former Carlton footballer Barry Gill.

Honorary member Jim Luker passed away in September 1996.

Our two RYPEN reps Grant Fleming and Josh Brebner addressed the club in October. The ladies street stall in November raised a further \$100 for club coffers.

Raffle tickets for the red MG pedal car were sold at the Noorat and Warrnambool Shows as well as the monthly Camperdown craft market. The car was drawn at the annual Chamber of Commerce street Christmas promotion.

Show bags were sold at the inaugural Flowers, Food and Fun Festival ( later to become the Cobden Spring Festival ) in October.

The Southdown Golf day on Sunday, December 1 raised \$545 and was followed by the annual AGM breakfast at a new venue – Heytesbury House on Thursday, December 5.

The expanded Vocational Service awards with the community voting saw Chris Meade receive the award for Pride of Quality Trade Performance, Bernard Baxter receive the Excellence in Traineeship Award and Tanya Parlour the Customer Service Award. The awards were presented at the club's Christmas break up dinner in December.

A Paul Harris Fellow Award was presented to P.P. John Wiggins at a combined dinner held at Camperdown on January 27th. Soft drinks were sold at the Australia Day celebrations in Cobden and the club entered a team in the Bowling Club Traders / Community bowls tournament.

The club suffered a great loss in March when Brian Malden passed away and the following month charter member Ian McArthur resigned due to ill health.

All year work had been proceeding at a furious pace at Railway Park and the hosting of the 1997 Easter AALS National Convention at our Railway Park was a huge success due to our planning and team work. It was a great event for Rotary, the South Western Model Engineers and the Cobden community. Amongst the steam and oil the Rotary Good Friday golf tournament was held!

Laura Gaut and Tracey Scott attended RYLA at Kangarooobie.

In May 1997 Ethel Matheson passed away and the community and hospital ladies auxiliary lost a great lady and a tireless worker.

Speakers during the year included former GSE Pennsylvania team member Michael Saunders of Camperdown, Olympic cyclist Clyde Sefton, Neil Boxshall who attended the world ploughing championships, Ray Lougheed talking about Red Cross, Lance Robilliard re the Upwey Fires, Laura Gaut re RYLA 1997 and Janet Parlour re Nursing at Cobden.

Members still enjoyed a 3 course meal for just \$10 at weekly meetings.

Three new members were inducted – Neil and Linda Podger, Garry Ross and David and Marion Woolley.