

1997-98

President	Alan Hart
President Elect	Frank Martin
Secretary	Bob Anderson
Treasurer	Kevin Johnston
Directors	Club - Peter Daffy Community - Don Rawlings Vocational - Gary Kimber International - Stan Coad Railway - Ron Merrigan Youth - Gary Kimber

District Governor John Oxley, Ararat

R.I. Theme - "Show Rotary Cares"

Exchange student Adrian Lenning arrived from Norway on August 6 to spend a year with the club.

D.G. John and Lola Oxley paid a visit to the club in September. Rotary hosted an 'Invitational Run' on the October weekend of the Spring Festival for visiting clubs and engines, receiving a positive response.

Rotarians and locals helped lay the 80 square metre concrete slab at the Tech for 'Johnno's shed' in September.

Rotary received a Sport and Recreation Minor Facilities grant for mini golf and a playground at Railway Park, the venue for the Shire's October Teddy Bears Picnic.

A 'T' Model Ford pedal car was the raffle prize & raised \$1,400. The Rotary Southdown golf day attracted only 30 players but 60 patrons enjoyed the evening roast dinner.

The Rotary Down Under October 1997 issue carried a photo and small article about the 1997 AALS Convention at Railway Park.

Rotarians played a big role in the official opening of the new AUSFEED Mill on Thursday, December 11 when they catered for 600 attendees. The barbeque ran hot and drinks were also served to the thirsty crowd which resulted in the addition of \$1,500 to club coffers. The club also continued its support and involvement in the Cobden Community Christmas Hamper Appeal with a donation of tinned foods to make up the 40 plus hampers for needy families.

In December Cobden was announced as the winner of the Regional Tidy Towns award and in February 1998 at Lakes Entrance Cobden Miniature Railway Park was announced winner of the 1997 State Tourist Attraction Award.

The Vocational Service Awards were again presented at the Christmas dinner catered by the hospital ladies at the Sports and Social Club. Two new members Michael and Carmel Merrett and Graham and Leanne Marchant were inducted on this wonderful night of Rotary fun and fellowship.

The annual studentship awards were also presented to Tech and Primary School students.

The first family New Year's Eve Fireworks Spectacular at Railway Park (the brainchild of Rotarian Max Wines) was a huge success. The community turned out in droves to support the night and share in good old fashioned family fun at the bargain price of just \$4 per family.

Rotary received the Corangamite Shire 1998 Event of the Year award for hosting the 1997 National AALS Convention.

The year continued at a hectic pace with the annual Fun Run/Walk on February 20th and members cleaning up the Camperdown Road as part of their Adopt A Highway project the following week. March was another busy month with the Regional Red Cross Family Fun Day being hosted at Railway Park as well as the Cobden Primary School Fair . A clean up day was held on March 19th at Rotary Park.

Another first was the cooking of a barbeque breakfast for our Seniors as part of Senior Citizens week, a truly enjoyable experience.

Good Friday golf saw 76 players take to the course in ideal conditions. The April 3 International Dinner catered by the hospital ladies saw over 120 enjoy the great entertainment provided and over \$1,050 was raised towards the Cobden Connection Rotunda. This Rotunda was a joint project with the Quota Club of Cobden and was officially opened on June 29, 1998 by direct descendants of Richard Cobden – Jim and Joan Cobden, Carla Winters from Cobden, Illinois and President Alan. The history of the Cobden Connection is now on display for all to see.

The Club received news that Princetown's Johannah Ryan, a student at Cobden Tech was being hosted to Japan in 1999.