

2002-2003

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| President | Neil Podger |
| President Elect | Bob Anderson |
| Secretary | Alan Hart |
| Treasurer | Frank Martin |
| Directors | Club - Graham Marchant Community - Max Wines Vocational - Michael Merrett International - Gary Kimber |
| District Governor | Pat Robertson, Camperdown |

R.I. Theme - "Sow The Seeds of Love"

The venue for the July 4, 2002 change over dinner was the Cobden Senior Citizens centre with the meal catered by the football club ladies.

Mr. Ian Holten, a plastic surgeon held members spellbound when he spoke to the club in July about the work of Interplast. His talk and photos said it all.

The AGM breakfast held at the Cobden roadhouse saw a large attendance and the following night Rotarians provided security, welfare and drinks to the estimated 1,000 teenagers at Corefest held at the Theatre Royal, Camperdown. This was another successful community/youth event.

A bus trip to the Warrnambool greyhounds in November for a meal and night at the track was enjoyed by all thanks to Max Wines. The 2nd Corporate Mini Golf tournament at railway Park was successful and enjoyed by all.

The Christmas dinner mystery bus trip to the Sing Bo Chinese Restaurant in Colac had everyone guessing. It was a great feed and night out.

The third Christmas Lights bus trip took place on Friday, December 20

The crowd was down on New Years Eve but the fireworks display was as good as ever thanks to the skills of Max Wines and Frank Martin. Trains ran, lights glowed, merry go rounds spun, entertainers sung, chips and donuts were consumed and show bags sold like 'hot cakes,' it was a great night. The pedal car was drawn and won by Camperdown's Callum McElveen.

A cool and damp evening welcomed walkers and runners at the 19th Fun Run/Walk on Friday, February 21st, 2003. Show bags were sold at the March 1st Heytesbury Show and a visit made to Heytesbury Ridge Winery in late February to keep members busy.

Australia was in the grip of a severe drought and the club decided it was time to bring children from Walgett in Northern NSW for a visit. Pivot donated 35 tonnes of super which raised \$8,000 and the club held a Big Boys and Girls Toy Expo in February raising further funds. Thirty three students from Walgett and surrounding district arrived on Monday, March 24 and met their host families. Rotarians, partners and friends spent the next 10 days showcasing our district to the children before their departure home on Friday, April 4 accompanied by our President Neil Podger and Kevin Johnston. It was a great experience all round for Rotarians, the school communities and the wider community as they opened their hearts to these youngsters. It was a joint project with the Rotary Club of Walgett showing what caring communities can do in times of need. An article was printed in the September 2003 issue of Rotary Down Under and the front cover carried a photo of Qasim Greenaway resting on the green grass at Railway Park.

The Club again participated in the District Bowelscan Project and another Fireworks display was held at Railway Park over Easter to entertain the Crowd.

Laura Collins was hosted at RYLA, Kangarooie with our own Pam and Max Wines acting as camp 'mum and dad.'

Rotarians and partners attended the Warrnambool PAC to listen to the highly entertaining Victoria Police Concert band.

Another important first was the appointment by the club of a Safety Officer, Glenice Coad to monitor our various projects and the physical assets to maintain them in good condition in line with the District Insurance expectations.

A little Bulletin 'humour!' This is a letter to God from a little boy

"Dear God,

I am a little boy and my name is Jimmy, and I am 6 years old and I have a little sister. My father is dead and my mother has a very hard time to bring us up as we have no money and I wondered if you could send us a cheque for \$500.

This letter arrived at the post office and they did not know what to do about it. Then they thought they would send it to Rotary. Rotary thought it was a very deserving case and amongst themselves they took up a collection and raised \$300 which they sent to Jimmy's mother.

After 2 or 3 weeks a Thank You letter arrived.

"Dear God, thank you very much for the money, but next time please send the money straight to us because Rotary kept \$200." (Mrs F. Smith)