2003-2004

President   **Bob Anderson**

President Elect   **Graham Marchant**

Secretary   **Alan Hart**

Treasurer   **Frank Martin**

Directors   **Club - Glenice Coad**
                       Community - Catherine O'Flynn
                       Vocational - Paul Wagner
                       International - Gary Kimber
                       Youth - Michael Merrett

District Governor Bob Furner, Mt. Gambier

R.I. Theme - "Lend A Hand"

Bob Anderson became the clubs 5th 're cycled' president when he took the reins of presidency at the June 26th change over dinner at the Senior Citizens centre.

Our international flavour and involvement with the Cobden Connection continued when Dave Stewart, the Mayor of Cobden, Ontario, Canada paid us a visit and spoke to the club. Charter member Harold Errey moved to Camperdown joining the local Rotary Club, prior to his departure he was presented with a Paul Harris Fellow Award by President Bob.

The Rotary club and SWME conducted the 'invitational run' over the Spring Festival weekend. The Melbourne Welsh Male Choir on Saturday, October 25th was well attended by the community and helped raise $3,500 towards the Cobden Aged Care Services warm water pool.

Rotarians joined forces with the Corangamite Shire and many other volunteers at COREFEST at the Theatre Royal on Friday November 7 when approximately 1,000 teenagers enjoyed an alcohol free night of loud music.

The club and community suffered a great loss when charter member and Past President Dr. Bill Barrett PHF passed away on November 11th aged 83. Bill was there at the interest meeting called in 1965 to discuss the establishment of a Rotary club and was still serving the community 38 years later.

The vocational service awards were presented at the December 4 weekly dinner meeting at the Civic hall and the following week the Christmas dinner was held at the Commercial Hotel, Camperdown.   A new studentship award was introduced for the Hampden Specialist School.

The New Years Eve crowd was probably the biggest to date when an estimated 6,000 attended Railway Park to celebrate the new year. Highlights were Michelle Benjamin's Jazz Band and children were spellbound by the shadow puppet show.

The Rotary club received the Corangamite Shire Community Event of the Year award for 2003 for their hosting of the Walgett school children. Adopt A Highway, Selling of show bags at the Heytesbury Show, the 20th Fun Run/Walk with a record 101 starters, hosting mini golf during the Shire's "Recreation Give It A Go Week," cooking breakfast for our senior citizens, spending a day and evening with the visiting English GSE team, participating in Bowelscan and being visited by former Norwegian exchange Student Adrian Lenning (hosted 1998) were activities enjoyed by Rotarians and their partners.

It was announced in March 2004 that Rotary had received a $10,000 grant from the State Government Small Towns Development Fund. This resulted in Kevin Johnston taking charge of the project and the barbeque/rotunda was well under way by the end of the Rotary year as Kevin was ably assisted by volunteer Brian Smith.

Highlight of the year was the 10th birthday celebration of Railway Park on Saturday, June 19 when Rotarians, partners and friends joined with S.W.M.E. members and former DG Dennis and Kathleen Wilson in celebrating 10 years of riding the rails at Cobden. The public received two rides for the price of one the following day as celebrations continued.

Two new members were inducted during the year – David and Belinda Steel and Gay Loftus. The fines "masters?" Garry Ross and Max Reed extracted $420-65 from members and visitors, a very tidy sum indeed!