

2005– 2006

President	Gary Kimber
President Elect	Glenice Coad
Secretary	Alan Hart, Kevin Johnston
Treasurer	Frank Martin
Directors	Club – Gay Loftus Community – Catherine O’Flynn Vocational – Graham Marchant International – Neil Podger Youth – David Steel
District Governor	Wayne Barrett, Portland

R.I. Theme – “Service Above Self”

Gary Kimber took over from Graham at the Senior Citizens Centre before an appreciative audience which included DGE Wayne and Gail Barrett from Portland and Corangamite Shire Mayor Cr Geoff Smith.

Rotary became involved in the towns Meals On Wheels program and many learnt a little more about their town as they participated in this wonderful community service of delivering meals to our aged citizens.

The club learnt that applicants Bethany Errey and Clair Duynhoven, both students at Cobden Tech had been selected for overseas student exchange in 2006.

Conducted in perfect weather the Sunday Spring Festival saw over a 1,000 train rides and many visitors enjoy the amusements and stalls on the grass at Railway Park. Mini golf had many takers as well.

The pedal car raffle (a red fire truck and yellow sports car) tickets were sold at the Warrnambool Show and Camperdown Sunday Craft markets and New Year’s Eve resulting in a very good profit for the club.

The ‘Rotary Health Safari’ Winnebago visited Cobden on Tuesday, October 18th to help promote and raise awareness of mental illness. A front page of the Cobden Times article featuring Tech School students resulted in our very own Gary Kimber appearing (photo and all!) in the December 2005/January 2006 Rotary Down Under edition.

The Winnebago was driven for 10 / 11 days by club member Calvin Muller who spoke to the club on Thursday, January 19th of his adventures behind the Winnebago wheel.

The club hosted the opening of the 'South West Games' at Railway Park on Friday, November 4th in perfect conditions. Rotarians were kept busy on the barbeque feeding the estimated 600 who enjoyed the activities. During Games week the club hosted a Mini Golf Competition as part of the games which was won by the AALS team. The same evening Rotary assisted at the annual youth Event – Corefest at the Theatre Royal, Camperdown showing their dedication and commitment.

Past President Alan Hart's retirement saw him move to Belmont, Geelong. At his community farewell at the golf club he was caught by surprise when presented with a R.I. Four Avenues of Service Citation by Past DG Cathy Roth and PP Graham Marchant. Alan has been a member since April 5th, 1984 and twice served as President.

The Vocational Service Awards received many nominations from the community and the winners were presented with their awards at the December 1st meeting.

Outgoing exchange students Bethany Errey and Clair Duynhoven spoke to the Club at the December 8th meeting. Bethany is being hosted in Ontario, Canada and Clair in Nakhon Pathom, Thailand. Clair had earlier participated in the Great Industrial Adventure. Bethany and Clair also received the Rotary Club's 2005 Citizenship awards which are selected by teachers and staff – they are truly wonderful young ladies.

The following week the club held its Christmas dinner at the Buffet Car at Railway Park at a relaxed meeting prior to gearing up for New Year's Eve. Charter member PP Ian Errey PHF celebrated his 90th birthday on Saturday 16th December. Ian has seen and done so much in his 40 years as a Rotarian, and has truly practised 'Service Above Self.'

The New Year's Eve celebrations even overcame a day of Total Fire Ban to attract its biggest crowd ever when an estimated 5,000 people attended. The Band 'Therapeutic Bandits' were a hit with the older patrons and the fireworks show was rated by most as the highlight. Approximately 2,400 rides were enjoyed by patrons of all ages.

Exchange students Bethany and Clair flew out on Friday 20th of January to their new homes for the year – Canada and Thailand.

The Rotary club and the South Western Model Engineers won the Corangamite Shire's Community Event of the Year for their staging of the 2004 New Year's Eve Family Fireworks Spectacular. The award was presented at the 2006 Australia Day Celebration held in Timboon.

At the time of writing the club was looking forward to celebrating its 40th Birthday on Friday 10th of March at the Cobden Sports and Social Club.