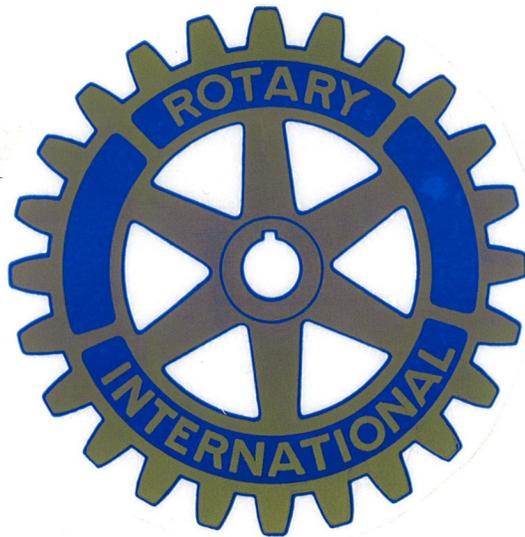


1966 – 2006

**HISTORY OF THE
ROTARY CLUB OF COBDEN Inc.**

40 YEARS OF “SERVICE ABOVE SELF”



Compiled by Past President Alan Hart PHF

THE FOUNDING OF ROTARY

Paul Harris, a Chicago Lawyer, organised a meeting with three other businessmen on February 23, 1905 in an attempt to bring them together in social fellowship. Little did he know that from this meeting it would grow into the world wide movement known today as Rotary International.

Harris met in a small office in Dearborn Street, Chicago with Engineer, Gus Loeb; Tailor, Hiram Shorey and Coal Merchant Sylvester Schiele. The name Rotary was adopted as meetings were to be held in rotation at the different places of business of the members.

This newly formed club grew and use of Christian names by members helped promote friendship. In 1906 the wagon wheel emblem was adopted and this design continued until 1924 when the current wheel of six spokes, twenty four cogs and a keyway was authorised.

A second club was formed at San Francisco in 1908 and by 1910 there were sixteen clubs in the United States. In August 1910 a united body to co-ordinate the existing clubs known as the National Association of Rotary Clubs was created. A revised Constitution in 1912 resulted in the name being changed to the International Association of Rotary Clubs. By this time Rotary was truly international with 50 member clubs and over 5,000 Rotarians organised in to 8 divisions - 5 in the USA, 2 in Canada and 1 in Great Britain and Ireland.

The movement became Rotary International in 1922 with more than 1000 clubs in 25 countries.

In February 2005 Rotary International celebrated 100 years of Service to the Community and now looks forward to its second century of 'Service Above Self'.

THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster.

FIRST The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service

SECOND High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying by each Rotarian of their occupation as an opportunity to serve society

THIRD The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to their personal, business and community life

FOURTH The advancement of international understanding, good will, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

ROTARY IN AUSTRALIA

The year 1913 saw young Melbourne businessman Walter Drummond visit Rotary Headquarters in Chicago and after expressing an interest in Rotary he was introduced to Paul Harris. After spending a day at the home of Harris and his family he came away determined to pave the way for the introduction of Rotary to Australians.

Plans were interrupted by World War One and it was not until February 12, 1921 that the International Association of Rotary Clubs appointed two Canadians - J. Layton Ralston, President of the Rotary Club of Halifax, Nova Scotia and James W. Davidson, Past President of the Rotary Club of Calgary, Alberta who arrived in Sydney on March 22, 1921. At this time the 1,000th Rotary Club was being chartered in York, England.

Owing to their visit coinciding with the Royal Easter Agricultural Show they were unable to make contact and headed South to Melbourne where they met Walter Drummond who arranged introductions to a number of prominent citizens. As a result an organising committee was formed and the inaugural luncheon of the Rotary Club of Melbourne was held on April 21, 1921 with 32 businessmen in attendance. A constitution and by-laws were adopted, the newly elected President Professor W.A. Osborne then applied for affiliation of the Rotary Club as a member of the International Association of Rotary Clubs. Seventeen Rotary Clubs were to be chartered in the next four years.

On September 15, 1927 Australia was proclaimed District No. 65 with G. Fred Birks, a member of the Rotary Club of Sydney becoming the first District Governor. In 1930 the territory covered by District 65 was divided in two. District 65 retained Victoria, Tasmania, S.A., W.A. and the southern part of N.S.W. whilst new District No. 76 administered Rotary Clubs in N.S.W. and Queensland.

With the granting of its Charter in 1966 the Rotary Club of Cobden Inc. has embarked on giving great Service to the local and International community and providing wonderful fellowship to Rotarians during the past 40 years.

1966 - 2006

THE ROTARY CLUB OF COBDEN

FORMATION

The Rotary Club of Cobden was founded at a meeting held in the Cobden Civic Hall on Monday, February 22nd, 1965 at 8 p.m.

THOSE PRESENT

Present were - Terang Rotarians Len Cowan and Max Hammond, and local citizens John Blake, Bill Barrett, Ross Wilson, Max Nelson, Eric Baker, Jim Gleeson, Bert Scouller, Jack Langley, Bill Roberts, Murray Adams, Keith Errey and Stan Burke.

Apologies were received from - District Governor John McArthur and locals Don McKenzie, Ray Bridges, Ian McArthur, Harold Errey, Ian Errey, George Crawford, Vic Jones, Cliff Biesse, Jim Murrhy, George Watts and Bill Melrose.

INTRODUCTIONS

Rotarian Len Cowan broadly outlined the aims, objectives and activities of Rotary and gave details of the activities of the Rotary Club of Terang to those present.

Many questions were asked which Len answered at some length.

CLUB FORMATION

It was moved by Jack Langley and seconded by Stan Burke “that a Rotary Club be formed at Cobden,” and carried.

It was further moved that meetings be held at 6.15 p.m. each Thursday and that annual subscriptions be £7 with a joining fee of £3-3-0. (Annual Subscriptions were later raised to £8 payable in two half yearly amounts of £4).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Eric Baker nominated and Bill Barrett seconded Jim Gleeson as President and this was carried unanimously.

Don McKenzie was nominated as Secretary by Eric Baker and seconded by Stan Burke and duly elected.

Murray Adams was nominated to the position of Treasurer by Jim Gleeson, seconded by Jack Langley and duly elected.

DIRECTORS

The office bearers and a further four directors, viz. Stan Burke, Eric Baker, Keith Errey and Bill Barrett were nominated and duly elected.

The meeting closed at 11.20 p.m. with a vote of thanks from President Jim to Terang Rotarians Len Cowan and Max Hammond “for their untiring efforts on behalf of Cobden Club.”

The newly elected Board of Directors then promptly met to discuss the matter of banking and it was moved by Eric Baker, seconded by Stan Burke that a trading Account be opened at the National Bank, Cobden and the meeting closed at 11.30 p.m.

The second meeting of the Directors of the Provisional Rotary Club of Cobden met at Jim Gleeson’s the following evening at 7.30 p.m. where it was reported that Don McKenzie had declined to act as Secretary and his resignation was accepted. President Jim was “empowered to interview George Watts, Ray Bridges and Jack Gribble for the position of Secretary.” Stan Burke agreed to act as Secretary until an appointment was made.

CHARTER MEMBERS

The Charter members of the Rotary Club of Cobden were listed on page 4 of the minute book as follows -

Murray Adams	Charlie Anderson	Eric Baker
Bill Barrett	Ray Bridges	Stan Burke
Frank Casey	Gordon Cowley	George Crawford
Alec Eales	Harold Errey	Ian Errey
Keith Errey	Jim Gleeson	Jack Gribble
Ken Harwood	Jack Langley	Bill Melrose
Jim Murrhiy	Ian McArthur	Don McKenzie
Bill Roberts	Bert Scouller	George Watts
Wilfred Weigal		

At this meeting it was moved that the Charter fee of £45 be paid, signatures be registered at the National Bank and that the “Civic Hall Reception Room” be hired for weekly meetings “and that Stan Burke negotiate with Hospital Ladies Auxiliary regarding catering for same.”

Discussion followed regarding the Club’s boundaries to be negotiated with neighbouring clubs by Jim Gleeson and Keith Errey; the sending of the list of Club members to Terang Rotary to be forwarded on to the District Governor and that further details on Constitution and By Laws be obtained.

It was agreed that the next director’s meeting be held on March 1st, 1965 at the residence of Eric Baker and the meeting closed at 11 p.m.!

This next meeting of Directors saw the attendance of Secretary George Watts and Stan Burke report that the Hospital Ladies Auxiliary would cater for the meals at 7/- per head.

Committee Chairmen were also announced as follows -

Club Service - Stan Burke Community Service - Bill Barrett

Vocational Service - Keith Errey International Service - Eric Baker

It was moved that the Club Directors meet on the second Thursday of each month following club meetings.

NEXT MEETING

It was moved by Eric Baker and seconded by Bill Barrett and carried “that next meeting of the Club be held at Civic Hall Reception Room on Thursday 11th March 1965 at 6.10 p.m., and that a letter be sent to each member prior to that meeting,”

Directors then met monthly and matters discussed included a Club Bulletin, attendance of members (it had been waning in a number of cases); possible club projects suggested by Community Service Chairman Bill Barrett included a Toilet block for Cobden, meals on wheels, moving of kindergarten furniture from the current hall to the new building and painting of Civic Hall trestle tables. Also discussed was the need of a public library for Cobden and the formation of an Elderly Citizens Club, a ladies night, member’s badges and charter night format. The need to fund raise was also discussed and at the August meeting it was decided to hold a “bag and battery drive.”

CHARTER - BOUNDARY DELAYS

At the August 12, 1965 meeting of Club Directors: "Moved Eric Baker, seconded George Crawford that Secretary George and President Jim be empowered to write a strongly worded letter to District Governor Bill Wood expressing the Cobden Club's concern at the very slow progress in the granting of a charter. Carried. District Governor's Special Representative Len Cowan also indicated his intention of writing a similar letter to the District Governor."

A letter from D.G. Bill Wood was read at the September 9th meeting of Directors and it was unclear what the specific hold up was. Letters were to be sent to the Rotary Clubs of Warrnambool and Camperdown regarding boundaries and "what problems exists preventing the granting of a Charter."

At this same meeting Treasurer Murray Adams presented the financial statement of receipts and expenditure for the period of August 12th to September 8th which showed receipts totalling £61-9-0 and expenditure of £65-15-3 leaving a balance of £53-13-9, a healthy position indeed.

A special director's meeting was held at the State Savings Bank, presumably at an early hour in the morning on October 13, 1965 when the 'territory' of the Provisional Rotary Club of Cobden was amended. At 10.30 a.m. that same morning at the residence of President Jim Gleeson a "District Governor's Conference" was held. Those in attendance were Warrnambool Rotarian and Past District Governor Fred Bennett, District Governor Bill Wood of Charlton, Rotarians Len Cowan and Max Hammond of Terang, Glen Gunner of Camperdown and Cobden Rotarians – Jim Gleeson, Jack Gribble, Murray Adams, Stan Burke and Keith Errey.

Discussion centred on Cobden's "frustrations of the delayed charter". A sympathetic District Governor "... expressed his wish that no effort be spared in expediting the granting of the Charter." A letter from R.I. was carefully perused and "... it was realised that the delay in the granting of a Charter was due to an overlapping of the boundaries of the Cobden and Colac Clubs." The boundaries agreed to at the morning meeting were adopted and the meeting concluded. Later that same evening the Directors met at the home of George Crawford where the amended boundaries were included in a letter to the D.G.

The Director's meeting on November 11 discussed the Ladies night held the previous week, the holding of a Christmas night on December 16th and then the Charter hold up. President Jim "reported that still no word had arrived of the granting of charter and apparently a further hitch on territorial boundaries was holding the charter up." Jim further announced that a meeting with Past President Bill Jones of the District Extension Committee, Past District Governor Fred Bennett and Cobden Club reps was to be held on Sunday, November 14th, 1965. A letter from Rotary International and District Governor Bill Wood was read at the December 1965 meeting of directors "... concerning boundaries between Terang and Camperdown and this is holding up the granting of charter."

Twenty one (21) Director's and 'Special' meetings were held but none record the news that the Charter of the Rotary Club of Cobden had been granted and signed on January 19, 1966. Perhaps the directors were so excited they overlooked recording this momentous occasion for posterity!

CHARTER

The Club Charter Certificate is displayed in our meeting room and was signed on January 19, 1966.

PRESENTATION OF CHARTER 12/3/1966

District Governor Bill Wood presented the Rotary Club of Cobden with its Charter on Saturday, March 12, 1966 in front of over 200 Rotarians and guests at the Cobden Civic Hall. Chairman for the evening was President of the Terang Club – Rotarian Norm McDonald. Twenty three Rotary Clubs were represented on the night and R.I. was represented by Past District Governor Ashton G Kelly and his wife Marie. Ashton is a P.D.G. of District 292 and a member of the Rotary Club of Whangarei, New Zealand. Cobden became the 36th club in District 278 upon being granted its Charter.

Director Eric Baker “thanked the ladies of the Cobden Bush Nursing Hospital Auxiliary for their magnificent catering efforts,” which were to be enjoyed by Cobden Rotarians for the following 35 years. The dinner was given great coverage in The Cobden Times and The Terang Express and makes great reading.

We are indeed fortunate to have this first book of minutes of the humble beginnings of the Rotary Club of Cobden and owe thanks to that ‘historian’ Bill Barrett who looked after it so well!

THE BEGINNING

The object of having a Rotary Club at Cobden was discussed at a meeting held at the Cobden Civic Hall at 8 p.m. on Monday, February 22, 1965 when District Governor's Representative of District 250 Terang Rotarian Len Cowan chaired the meeting. Fellow Terang Rotarian Max Hammond sat in company with twelve locals and apologies were read from District Governor John McArthur of Ararat and eleven Cobden businessmen, many of whom were to become Rotarians.

Rotarian Len Cowan outlined the "aims, objects and activities of the Rotary movement, in general, and explained some details of the Terang Club for the guidance of those present." The motion by Jack Langley, seconded by Stan Burke "that a Rotary Club be formed at Cobden," was carried. It was agreed that the Rotary Club would meet at 6.15 p.m. each Thursday. Cobden Butter Factory Manager Jim Gleeson was elected President, Stan Burke vice-president, secretary for the first year was George Watts and National Bank Manager Murray Adams was elected treasurer. Bill Barrett, Stan Burke, Eric Baker and Keith Errey were elected as Directors for the ensuing year. Annual subscriptions were set at £7 with a joining fee of £3-3-0 and Ian Errey had been elected Sergeant at Arms

The Club directors met the following night, Tuesday, February 23, 1965 (Rotary Internationals 60 birthday!) when the list of twenty five 'Charter' members of the Rotary Club appeared in the minutes.

At a later meeting of directors the venue had been set as the Cobden Civic Hall, which still holds forty years on! The board met monthly at the homes of various Rotarians with the minutes always concluding with a vote of thanks to the host Rotarian's wife for the 'tasty supper provided!'

For the Rotary year 1965-66 District 250 became District 278 and District Governor Bill Wood, of Ararat presented the Charter to Club President Jim Gleeson on Saturday, March 12th, 1966 at the Cobden Civic Hall before two hundred plus Rotarians and guests. A vote of thanks was given to Rotarian Norm McDonald, President of the Rotary Club of Terang for their efforts in assisting and in particular Rotarians Len Cowan and Max Hammond. After the formalities were completed "many present then enjoyed a further period of fellowship in the R.S.L. Hall before leaving on their various journeys."

The Directors met four nights later and accepted the resignations from Charter members Charlie Anderson and Murray Adams owing to their leaving the district, Murray had transferred to the National Bank at Bendigo and Charlie had taken over as station master at Jeparit. State Bank Manager Jack Gribble was elected as treasurer to replace Murray upon his transfer.

At the March 31, 1966 director's meeting five months leave of absence was granted to President Jim Gleeson who was travelling overseas and Eric Baker acted as President in Jim's absence.

Directors were -	Stan Burke	Club Service
	Bill Barrett	Community Service
	Keith Errey	Vocational Service
	Eric Baker	International Service

Detailed activities of the Club since the February 22, 1965 meeting are not known. The minutes record in the main the formation of the club and discussion of classifications to be opened with very few articles appearing in The Cobden Times during those early days. According to an article in The Cobden Times (9/2/1966) the first meeting of the Rotary Club of Cobden was held on Thursday, January 27th, 1966 and at their second meeting District Governor Bill Wood attended along with Rotarians from the Rotary Clubs of Belmont, Geelong West, Corio and Camperdown.

Another article in The Cobden Times, February 2, 1966 reported that Cobden Rotarians hosted two Malayan Trainee Nurses in late January. "Tam" and "Lam" were hosted by Mr and Mrs Jim Gleeson and Mr and Mrs Jack Langley and were shown around the district on their first visit to country Victoria. The two Nurses were in Australia as part of a three year training program and paid a visit to the Cobden Bush Nursing Hospital during their three day stay.

Donations made by the Rotary Club of Cobden were reported in The Cobden Times of February 23, 1966 when cheques were presented to the Cobden pre-school (\$50), the Cobden swimming pool (\$100) and to the Cobden Bush Nursing Hospital (\$150).

The Cobden Times, March 16, 1966 reported that the Rotary team brought home the Rotary Bowls Shield from the Terang tournament. Rotarians Bill Roberts and Jack Langley were assisted by local bowlers John Blake and Clem Hose. No further Cobden Times articles were found until the report of the induction of Stan Burke as President in July 1966!

OUR FIRST PRESIDENT

This is copied from the Rotary Times of 1974/75 when a number of 'pen pictures' of Charter members were printed under the heading of "Personality Profile."

Jim was born in Fitzroy just a few years before Kevin Murray played his first game for the Lions and, since the age of sixteen, has always known which side his bread was buttered on. He worked for about twelve years at Orbost before taking his first managing positions in 1938 at Swanpool Butter Factory. In 1940 he transferred to Springhurst for about nine years before moving to Moe. He was appointed to Cobden in 1953. Twenty years ago Jim was President of the Victorian Division of the Australian Institute of Dairy Factory Managers and Secretaries and he is still a Fellow of the Institute today. Jim has always worked hard for the dairying industry both in and out of the factory and his energies are expended as Chairman of the Whey Utilization Committee, Chairman of Casein Manufacturers Association, Chairman of Directors of Whey Products Aust. Pty. Ltd., Director of Dairy Technical Services, Councillor of

Co-Operative Dairy Factories Association, a member of the Casein Equalization Advisory Committee, a member of the Victorian Dairy Produce Board and a member of the Executive of Milk Depots Association.

Always a good citizen Jim takes civic affairs as seriously as he takes his work. He is a past president of Cobden Scouts Committee, State School Committee and Chamber of Commerce and is a foundation member of the Cobden Technical School Executive Council. He left a similar record behind in Moe including service as a Justice of the Peace and Government Nominee on the Moe Water Trust and Sewerage Authority. He is currently Chairman of Directors of Heytesbury Investments Pty. Ltd. As General Manager of the Cobden Butter Factory he has toured the world and has visited New Zealand several times seeking markets and introducing new ideas.

Jim has a charming and devoted wife, Margaret, and their two sons have given them five lovely grandchildren.

Jim has a proud record in Rotary and served with distinction as President in Moe before becoming Charter President of Cobden in 1966. He is Cobden's first Senior Active member and currently is program chairman.

Now that tariffs are eased Jim should take the CASE IN point and give WHEY to young Tom to SKIM the CURDS out of the Curdies and once again trundle one down towards kitty.

This is a wonderful description telling us much about our first President who will not be known to those in latter years. I thank the 'unknown' author.