

Club Formation was by Oakleigh and is detailed in Alan James bound history of the planning, boundary discussions, interest meetings and minutes.

1965-66

Club chartered April 17th 1965 DG Len Greenwood, GSR Alan James of Oakleigh and almost exactly the date the regional magazine Rotary Down Under was established.

Max Hammer was Charter President and had been a Rotarian for 11 years and this was his 4th club. He was a banker and member of the local Chamber of Commerce and Past Master of the Lodge so brought a lot of experience and contacts to the club.

The first Bulletin printed immediately prior to charter on April 12th 1965 and in it Alan James reported on the Albury District Conference which Kevin Beaumont also attended. It also began a long series of member profiles and Rotary information for members. The first meetings were held on Mondays at 1.00PM at Koolonga 317 Clayton Road.

The first Social Evening was a Film Night held at the Spring Valley Golf Club on May 7th at 8.PM during which GSR Allen James inducted Max Hammer as President and inducted all the Clayton members present presenting them with Rotary badges. Over half the charter members were active golfers.

A Club assembly was held on Wednesday April 21st when Allen James described how the club would operate, its board, the role of directors and reporting, fellowship and to have an emphasis on Rotary information initially.

The Charter Presentation Night was in the then very new Student Union Hall at Monash University on Saturday June 19 1965. 315 people were in attendance and possibly the club's first banner, one from Singapore was presented. Allen James described how the club was formed, and DG Len Greenwood introduced all the Charter Members. The framed Charter Certificate and Object of Rotary were presented by DG Len Greenwood.

The Rotary Club of Noble Park Charter Night was soon after on Tuesday July 13th 1965.

Clayton was matched with the Leek Club in England exchanging bulletins and banners.

Asian students were hosted at a meeting and taken to the huge new Fibremakers factory in Bayswater and an essay competition was held at the local High School.

On July 26th Miss Victoria was guest speaker at a Ladies Night and 23 wives attended! DG Stan Sullivan visited for lunch on August 30 and a club assembly followed at 8 pm.

The first "active" project of the club was a Courtesy Month in Clayton with 5,000 circulars distributed. Citizens were urged in 150 words or less to write in and nominate explaining why they considered somebody was courteous. A budget of 35 pounds was set with two pound ten shillings given as weekly awards. The local press printed recipient's photos and large banners were hung stretching across Clayton Rd at the Princes Highway and another near the railway gates. Awards were made on November 15, the Grand Prize

going Mrs. M Hourigan who had lived in Clayton 60 years. She reported how a young lady from Ouyen had helped her with heavy groceries for the first time ever. When commented on, she modestly said some people may be shy!

At the December Ladies Day, Australia's Miss Charity Queen Carolyn Hannaford spoke with a degree of infighting reported on who would be Chairman that day! We note that Rotary then was only for males.

A Christmas Dinner Dance was planned at the Village Green Hotel, cost four pounds four shillings a double but no record exists of it actually happening.

An Inter-club visit to Malvern was held on Feb 9 and on Feb 20, 25 boys from Tally-Ho (a home in Burwood for delinquent boys) were taken to Healesville Sanctuary. On March 1st a Rotary Golf Day was held at Beacon Hills hosted by Frank Nightingdale the Beacon Hills Golf Club President.

The Four Way Test was distributed to several schools. The club became a 100% Foundation club in its first year setting a trend for the future. The club had a bagman who seemed to take the role of the Sergeant at Arms and reported all manner of minor misdemeanors in the Bulletin.

Being near the railway line. Two mile long briquette trains were found rather disruptive to speakers as they rumbled past.

An interclub golf competition in District 282 was cleaned up by Ralph Bryant, Kevin Beaumont, Les Sturzaker and Alan Fulton.

May 7 was the Charter Night of Waverley and June 6 saw a club BBQ held.

June 27 was the first Changeover Night and held at Kolonga replacing the luncheon meeting. The new committees had met by year end and forwarded plans.

1966-67

Howard Price was inducted but the old letterhead was used on the bulletin for the next 17 issues showing the previous years structure. Annual membership fees were \$14.70.

A picture night to see Mary Poppins was held. \$ 100 was forwarded to "The Servants of the people" a training farm in the Punjab India and International planned to send 7 Freisen heifers and one bull to South Korea but no reports exist on it occurring.

An official interclub visit and combined luncheon of Oakleigh and Clayton was held at Classic Court on 25 August with 17 members present. On September 18th the Club visited All Saints church for a service.

A public meeting organized by Alan Fulton was held was held in the Clayton Hall on October 16th to form an organizing committee for an Elderly Citizens Club, the club's first big project. By November it had over 100 members and average weekly attendance was over 70.

Ladies Days were held at the normal luncheon meetings at Kolonga.

On August 22nd the club's banner was seen for the first time and one was presented to Charter President Max Hammer. Bob Keogh undertook the task of production and thanked Doug Pleasants and Jeff Wilson of the Wool Board (who were present) and had provided the woolen material. Vida Turner did the silk screening. A lot of thought had gone into the banner production and a leaflet accompanied each one handed out.

Golf was played at Cypress Gardens Yarrowonga over the cup weekend and Clayton were "done". This was the first of many such visits.

A Christmas Dinner dance was held at Spring Valley Golf Club on November 25th and Tom Portelli was inducted on Dec 12th.

February 16 was the changeover date to decimal currency and the effect on business was significant and covered early in the year. Frank Nightingdale resigned. He had organized the programme from the outset. The club had a "Foundation Tin" at each meeting which was apparently topped up with loose cash.

In March the club hosted a GSE team from Canada on Moomba Monday so Moomba was visited and lunch at the Atheneum Club followed by much liquid refreshment cruising Port Phillip Bay then tea was had at Monash Uni.

The club took out elderly ladies from Clayton Road's Convalescent Home for Women and a number of members attended the 280 District Conference in Melbourne. \$ 221.27 was raised at a BBQ and in May the club ran a theatre night to Half a Sixpence.

Ray Cain was inducted on May 15th

1967-68

The President Harold Downing had a paper goods factory in Clayton.

The year started quietly, the first function was a Ladies Night followed by Crazy Whist

The Elderly Citizens were taken out to Arthur's Seat and the cup weekend inter-club visit to Yarrowonga-Mulwala playing golf, a large family BBQ was held at Graeme Sweeney's property at Berwick, and a Dinner Dance at Spring Valley Golf Club.

The Bulletin this year was heavy on Rotary information but very light on what went on.

A Golf day was held at the Huntingdale Golf Club on March 20th 1968 which appears to have been the first of Clayton's famous Clayton Shield Golf Days although many golf days had been attended prior. It was won by Stan Williams and Clive Forte of Oakleigh and Alan Fulton won a trophy too. Money raised was used to buy a six band radio that was forwarded to Betage School in New Guinea.

What had now become an annual event, the Clayton Rotary Church Service was held at All Saints on Sunday April 28th with member participation throughout the service.

Almost every Bulletin seemed to advertise a golf day of some kind. Golf was then a very important part of Clayton and for many other Rotary club's fellowship.

A Clayton Ball was held at Union House Monash University on May 31st at cost of \$ 9.00

The club encouraged all members to fit and wear seat belts in their cars.

An exchange student was obviously away in the Philippines but name or location was not reported in the Bulletin yet a character called SCHMIDT DER SPY featured weekly with much dirt on members. The Changeover Night was not even advertised or reported on!

1968-69

President Bob Keogh was a consultant in Civil Engineering and a member of Oakleigh for two years prior to the formation of Clayton.

A sign of the times was the club's course run for Nuclear Wardens by a Mr Alan Tombom. International Committee were looking at bringing out a German migrant family but nothing more on that was reported.

On August 26th Alan Scanlan MLA spoke on Victoria's water and considerations on supply sources. On September 9th DG Kel Carr attended the club with a Club Assembly later.

An outing with 25 people from the Melbourne Convalescent Home to the Silvan Dam was organized by Ed Allchin. A International Committee BBQ was held on October 27th at Graeme Sweeney's property at Harkaway and again the cup weekend official, visit to interclub visit to and golfing at Yarrowonga was held on November 4th.

The Christmas Dinner Dance, a black tie affair on December 7th was held at Monash Hotel. The year's events to date showed the club had settled down into a routine.

Erlinda Urbayan from Tacloban City in the Philippines was Clayton's first inwards exchange student and she went to Oakleigh High and indications are she did well.

In February attendance had sunk to 68%, low enough to trigger concern from the DG. Five members and the exchange student attended the conference in Albury but their accommodation was in Holbrook, beyond the Black Stump according to the Bulletin!

On March 31 the Clayton Shield Golf Day was held at Huntingdale Golf Club and Oakleigh cleaned up. The Elderly Citizens Club benefited from the Golf Day with the \$200 profit being used to furnish their new clubrooms.

A migrant family from Wales, a Mr and Mrs. Dell and four children were brought out with employment found at Robert Bosch. They left England in the Oriana on April 3rd and arrived on the 28th which seems a remarkably rapid passage.

On April 13 forty epileptics were taken out to the Silvan Dam and on 22nd a theatre night was held. The club learnt that Karen Moore from Bothwell in Washington USA was to be the clubs next exchange student and was reported as being a "doll".

On April 22nd another theatre visit was held and on May 4 what is described as an "Evening Church Parade" at All Saints and run by Bill Mitchell and club members.

1969-70

Alan Fulton, an avid golfer and pharmacist was President.

Early in the year \$200 was donated to the Elderly Citizens Club on their first anniversary which with subsidies amounts to \$600.

Karen Moore arrived from Bethell Washington on 24th August. A Crazy Whist night was held 29th September and 19th October for the BBQ at Graeme Sweeney's property.

A Mannequin Parade (3 blondes and 2 Brunettes) was held at the Clayton Civic Centre on 28th and 29th October with a swim suit as a door prize each night and \$126.80 profit

A night at the trots was organised. Cost was \$5 for three course meal and liquor!

30 Ladies from the Melbourne Convalescent Home were taken to the National Art gallery and a Christmas Party for them held on November 30th at the home.

The Clayton Golf day was held at Huntingdale Golf Club with \$200 proceeds towards the disaster vehicle and on March 20 a Progressive Dinner was held and soon after a theatre night then a Crazy Whist night. Members were each asked to have mini projects to raise \$50 each towards the ambulance.

1970-71

Kevin Beaumont another avid golfer and window manufacturer was President

Karen Moore returned to the USA on July 20th and expressed great gratitude for the club and Caulfield High School. A bus load of approximately 40 students and 4 Rotarians saw her off.

A Careers Night was held at Westall High with six other schools invited to attend. About 700 attended in dismal weather.

Gil Woodley and Gerry Coleman both Charter members resigned under business pressure.

An outing for the Convalescents was held on 3rd of October in the Dandenongs and a wheelchair for Cheltenham Homes at \$ 120.

The Melbourne Cup weekend was spent golfing by many members at Yarrowonga as well as horseracing and pulling poker machine jackpots

On November 8th in Fregon Park the Search and Rescue vehicle was handed over to St John Ambulance Brigade at a cost of \$6,000. It was blessed by member Rev Bill Mitchell in the presence of politicians, Mayors, the DG, Rotary members and St John officials. The City of Oakleigh Band played, there were marching girls, and search and rescue squads from surrounding areas. This was the first such vehicle in service.

A Mannequin Parade and BBQ was held on November 20 raising around \$300 at Ed Allchin's home.

A BBQ at Graeme Sweeney's property raised around \$700.

Dianne Norling was selected as an exchange student to Basilan City Southern Philippines.

The Annual Golf Day was held at Spring Valley Golf Club.

Kinji returned to Japan on March 5th

On the sixth birthday on April 12th past members were invited back and most attended. Allen James was the speaker.

On March 20 30 patients from the Clayton and Harrisfield Epileptic homes to the National Art Gallery.

Sir Rohan Delacombe awarded Bill Dawson one of Scoutings highest honors the Silver Acorn for specially distinguished service.

A Progressive Dinner was run by Harry Draffin and was a great success and on June 14 a club visit to Malvern was held with 16 members attending.

Daisy Lorenzana from Mandaue City, Cebu. Philippines

Changeover was at Kolonga with 81 present including arrived that day Zenaida Paras from the Philippines.

1971-72

Ed Allchin, a local doctor had a lot of community connections via his practice and involvement with St Johns Ambulance.

A Rotaract Committee chaired by Kevin Beaumont was formed so see if a club could be formed. Admission fee for a Rotaract Club was \$10 per year and \$ 1.00 per member/year.

On August 16th 100% of members voted to move meetings to the Monash Hotel, mainly because of train noise. Alan James was made an Honorary Member of Clayton and in September the board voted to bring Foundation level up to 300%. Heather Norling visited her daughter Dianne in the Philippines and reported that Dianne was having a wonderful time.

A Dinner Dance was held at Monash Hotel on October and a Progressive Dinner in November with stops at Bryant's, Prices and Beaumont's.

It was commented in October that only five clubs in District 980 had five clubs with lower number of members than Clayton, all country clubs.

The club hired Springvale Town Hall by way of supporting Margaret Busietta of Southvale Primary School to hold an Arts Festival on 16th and 17th of November. Approximately 200 children from each of 24 local schools were to attend. Activities included dancing, drama, gymnastics, puppet shows, figure skating and musical groups. The intention was to make it an annual event. It worked wonderfully well.

42 McCullough House patients were taken out on 20th of November to Ferntree Gully

On November 29th Bill Norling was inducted to membership.

A Family and Friends BBQ was held on December 5th at Bill Sweeney's place at Harkaway and December 17th. On December 20th the club held its very first breakfast meeting at the Monash Hotel.

A Christmas Dinner Dance ad on January 22nd a Family Night at the Trots.

Dianne Norling returned from the Philippines on February 1st.

Ed Allchin ran a Family Day at the Fraser National park near Lake Eildon on Feb 27.

Exchange student Mary Anne Vincencis came from Bacolod City on the Northern End of Negros Island in the Philippines. Zenaida (Zeni) Paras returned to the Philippines town of Cagayan de Oro at year end but went to Queensland with the Norlings before she did and Lyn Burns in Bohoe, Tagbilaran City Philippines wrote how all the stores in the town were owned by Rotarians so she got discounts everywhere.

A theatre Night to "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers" was held May 18th. On May 20th The Rotaract Club of Waverley Charter Night was held and watched by Clayton.

Epileptics were again taken on a country trip on 27th of May.

Waste paper collections had been held through the year with good results.

Changeover was at Camelot with 125 people present for \$6.50 with liquor included. A newly made Sergeant at Arms collar was presented to Ben Baxter. The District Changeover was at Seymour.

1972-73

Les Stuzaker an accountant and golfer

Club Meetings were at the Monash Hotel at 1.00 PM and this was the last year of the District 980 as it was stretching to the border.

The nearby provisional club of Glen Waverley was formed. Bulletins had covers but general members got ones without them.

Lyn Burns was the club's exchange student to Tagbilara, Bohol, Philippines.

On July 14 at 8.00PM an interest meeting for Rotaract was held with 24 interested in attending another interest meeting with a second one planned for Thursday 3rd August in the 5th Oakleigh/Monash Troop Scout Hall in Clayton Road. Jo Anne Ault was elected the first Rotaract President. By September they had over 27 members.

Wine bottling was held 7 & 8 October with the intention of raising \$ 2,500.

A special ambulance was bought for Yooralla with chair lift costing \$7,500, the money raised mostly via a raffle and Government subsidy and also made a contribution that lead to a second vehicle being bought. Bill Dawson chaired the committee which raised this money.

On September 2 a Progressive Dinner was organized by Harry Draffin. The club had reached 300% Foundation by mid September and 100% FAIM.

In late September Rotaract performed their first project, sorting books, about 3 ½ tonnes taken from Ben Baxter's home then sorted at Bill Norling's factory.

A Crazy Whist night was held after an evening Ladies Night and in November a Sunday BBQ was held at Dave Cook's property near Bunyip. .

Mary Anne was an incoming exchange student and Ingrid Norling the outgoing to Ogaki in Japan.

Bill Dawson ran a lemonade drive raising \$ 240 and in November the club ran the Performing Arts Festival involving 11 schools and more than 2,000 students of all ages in a 2 day festival of singing, dancing, music, gymnastics and drama with more than 5000 spectators. .

In December Clayton hosted the District Student Exchange briefing at Monash Uni.

A Trots Night was held at the Showground's on 20th January.
In February Dianne Norling returned from her exchange.

On Feb 12 the club began meeting at Camelot.

A Car Picnic Trial was held to a picnic ground in the Dandenongs. Waste paper was collected and sold and an evening BBQ was held at Fred Bendix's place.

In March Lyn Burns arrived back from her exchange in the Philippines and a raffle raised \$ 1,780 and the first Rotaract Bulletin was issued.

In the last 12 months 8 members were lost and 5 gained

The Rotaract Club Charter Night was held April 16th at Camelot at cost of \$6 a head with Charter Presentation by DG Jock Andrews.

Then annual Golf day was held at Spring Valley with \$7.50 covering green fees and dinner and 12 members attended the Albury Conference.

On May 7th at a Ladies Night at Camelot a cheque was presented to the Spastic Society for a new ambulance Eve and Jack Kelly were specially mentioned as they had sold 500 raffle tickets. Kevin Beaumont was mentioned for role in starting the Rotaract Club and Jan Marie Belfield was sponsored to RYLA and exchange student Mary Anne Vincencio farewelled on her return to the Philippines.

At last meeting 37 people including exchange student Chisako Latomi from Gifu City in Japan and student counselor Bill Dawson. Changeover was at Camelot in conjunction with the Rotaract Club. Cost \$6.00 a head including meal and 140 attended. Ray Brede and Bryan Slater were inducted.

1973-74

Steve Smith

Meetings were held at Camelot 1.00 to 2.00 pm. This was a truly epic year for the club.

Clayton hosted Youth Exchange interviews at Monash, Ben Baxter in charge.

On August 6th had night dinner meeting for DG Ford Davis, ladies were NOT invited.

Four Fireside meetings were held through the year at member's homes. It was mentioned that a member may bring their wife to a luncheon meeting and Mary Taylor was the first to attend.

On the 27th of August the club had its 400th meeting

Ingrid Norling was the exchange student in Japan

A combined theatre night with Oakleigh was held.

On September 29 and 30 a Trash and Treasure was held near Blackburn Road making \$207 and was ongoing under Ben Baxter and Alan Rowney's control. Later in the year they got a shop in the Clayton Village for a few days. The Epileptic group Clayton had supported gave support back in the form of knitted clothing for the shop as thanks.

Awards of \$100 to Clayton Tech, and \$150 to Westall being for \$25 awards to students.

FAIM was again supported and a student was sponsored to the Mathematical Assn Summer School at Harriettville and a Careers Night at Westall was attended by over 1000 people.

For a joint meeting with Oakleigh in November, Clayton Rotarians were urged to wear clean shirts when Dr John Dawborn spoke on dialysis machines!

Bill and Heather visited their daughter Ingrid in Japan

On November 17th the Barn Dance/BBQ was held at the Gearon Ranch in Rowville in old machinery sheds cot \$5.00 a head and made \$ 1000 profit.

Anne Fulton was accepted as an exchange student to Japan. Kinji Muto returned to Japan and Karen Moore returned home to the USA. Dianne Norling went to the Philippines and Zennie Paras arrived in Australia. Youth exchange was very big in Clayton at this time!

On December 24th the Christmas Dinner/Dance was held at the Spring Valley Golf Course reported at \$12 a double, later \$ 20 a double! Then on December 16th the club hosted the District briefing of outgoing exchange students.

The Clayton Shield was held at Royal Melbourne.

On February 2nd Peter Seabourne and Anne Fulton exchange students both about to go out and Ingrid Norling just returned and current exchange student Chisako Satomi were present.

A wheelchair was provided to Mr Wilde a Clayton citizen and \$100 to a Pakistan refugee appeal, a tape recorder to Aboriginals via Pastor Doug Nicholls and foundation plateau reached 300%. There were Theatre Nights, the Trots Night, a Progressive Dinner, two cards nights, a club visit to Yarrowonga with Malvern and Waverley and the Christmas breakfast meeting with Moorabbin. Eight members were still 100% in February and club attendance was 92% for the year to date and the club was 100% FAIM.

A search and rescue ambulance for St Johns Ambulance was bought, built and equipped and presented and \$ 6,000 raised in 10 months by 30 members!

The club met at the Sandown Motel from 21st January onwards. On Feb 25 at a Ladies Night the second Yoralla Ambulance was handed over and PP Ed Allchin discussed the dialysis machine more.

A send off for Chisako Satomi was held on 8th of March at Kevin Beaumont's home and on 23rd of March the next Japanese student arrived.

Bill Norling collected old batteries and radiator scrap to fund the dialysis machine and \$175.96 was raised at one stage. A whole train was booked to a mystery place then a bus to an even nicer spot. An old camera exhibition was held raising \$82, a street stall \$144. 70% of the club attended the District Conference in Canberra, the top attendance apart from the host club

On May 8th the club met at the Clayton Railway Station where the staff was presented with a citation for exemplary service before going to Sandown for luncheon.

A Gay Dinner Dance was advertised in the bulletin at Dorset gardens on May 11th Regardless of description 200 people attended and \$ 285 was raised.

Guy Holden and Bruce Moorehouse were RYLA awardees.

The banner was first used as the cover for the Bulletin on May 20th.

An opportunity shop was run on June 13 and 14

Changeover was at Merrimu with three Japanese visitors and Andres Victorio from the Philippines our inwards Exchange Student and Peter Seaborn our outgoing student to Japan. A cheque for purchase of a Renal Dialysis machine was handed to the Austin Hospital. Membership was a worry all year. Guy Holden attended RYLA.

1974-75

President Ray Cain was a Real Estate agent in Clayton urged us to renew the Spirit of Clayton. Meetings were initially at the Sandown Motel then later Deakin Hall.

The club hosted William Strahle from Indiana, a Foundation Awardee at Monash.

The meeting venue was changed to Deakin Hall, the first meeting being on 5th August.

A Careers Night was held at Westall High on Sept 24 with over 3000 attending!

Alan Fulton and Kevin Beaumont went to Japan. Alan's daughter Anne was reported as Clayton's Exchange Student in Ogaki Japan. Membership fees rose to \$25 PA. A theatre night was held and over 500 people attended a BBQ at Gearons.

Peter Seaborn was our exchange student in Tokyo.

Andres Victorio our exchange student gave an amazingly mature insight into Philippines history and culture the day that Bill Sides, an ex Rotaractor, was inducted on Sept 2.

A Trots Night was run by Ray Thomas with 95 attending and John Goldspink was On to Conference, this time in Canberra and took off the attendance trophy!

A ladies night on Dec 9 had wine tasting as a tempter. The ladies assisted at the District Exchange student briefing at Monash Uni, something that was done for many years. Belinda Watt went to Bacolod and schooled in Cagayan De Oro City in the Philippines and left in January and was reported as coping well. A chicken and champagne Christmas breakfast meeting was held at Moorabbin, again a tradition.

Cyclone Tracy hit Darwin, Bill Sides had a personal insight having spent months in Darwin leaving just days before. \$500 was forwarded to the Rotary Club of Darwin North. \$900 went to the District Village Project and FAIM \$150. Westall, Oakleigh and Clayton Tech each got \$150 for student awards.

Clayton was now 800% with Rotary Foundation.

A group of Epileptics from Sister Wallace's Home and some age from McCullough House were taken on a picnic to Maroondah Dam. Oakleigh Council helped fund our RYLA awardees attendance this year. A fellowship evening at Edelweiss was organized by Ray Brede and a Trash and Treasure stall raised \$ 196.25.

The 10th birthday of the club was celebrated a little late on May 19 at Deakin Hall with 89 present. DG Ted Atkinson was there and a Community Service Award was given to Eve Kelly for helping in the club fund raising for many years.

PP Howard Price was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship.

David Kajewski and Eileen Morgan were selected for the RYPEN camp at Scotch College.

The Vietnam War ended with the fall of Saigon in May. Ben Baxter resigned on 23rd June. He was a popular member.

Kevin Beaumont and Ray Thomas attended the RI Convention and played gold on the way of course.

Clayton hosted the District Assembly at Monash University on June 22nd. The club's changeover was at Camelot Receptions and Jim Cochrane, proposed by Gil Woodley, was inducted to membership.