

# 1984 - 1985

*This was the year of President Harley Tarrant (affectionately known to members of the Club as Mr. Rotary, because of his encyclopedic knowledge of matters Rotary), Ray McCluskie was Secretary and Dick White was District Governor.*

Harley was a knight in shining armour, and it was significant to him that he promote an awareness of environmental matters and he preached the need to be receptive to orderly change. He was listened to with respect.

Members recall many achievements of this year; perhaps most significant were the following:

The Rotaract Club was on the verge of collapse. It had but few members and those it had were unwilling to stand office. After challenging them to find a President or hand in their Charter, Harley promised them total support and close relationship with the Rotary Club. His efforts were reflected in a more vigorous and better motivated Club.

The Ladies Probus Club was established during this year. There was some resistance to this within our Club, since we had already sponsored men's Probus Clubs and it was considered the wives of the men's clubs could go along to their outings. During this time of indecision Burwood Rotary Club got under our guard and formed the first Ladies Probus Club in the District. However this stimulated our members and in short time they were instrumental in having a large number of ladies join the new club.

President Harley speaks with great feeling about the Christmas Party for the Extension Guides, Broderick School and Chalmers Road Special School.

He got the idea for this party when he attended a meeting of the Local Association of Strathfield Guides and heard how the Extension Guides (Downs Syndrome girls) performed carols each year at a nursing home. He spoke to their leader, Ann Campbell, who was delighted with the opportunity of having the girls perform before the



members of the Club.

The Club called on the Rotaractors to buy the Christmas presents, assisting in their further development with the Rotary Club. The Broderick School and Chalmers Road Special School were added to the evening.

In this regard, it is worth quoting President Harley's own words of a warm-hearted and caring Rotarian:

"apart from the joy it gave the children and their parents, I believe that many Rotarians, including myself, learnt that each handicapped child had his or her own personality and understood joy and pain, could laugh or be embarrassed and was entitled to be regarded as a person - not to be ignored or belittled.

If I learnt nothing else during the year, this was a lesson which will stay with me forever."

Other highlight of the year included:

- \* The hosting of the RYLA seminar at Springwood.
- \* The presentation of a Paul Harris Fellowship to Don Killip, who became the third recipient of this honour in our Club.
- \* Tour Exchange student from South Africa Liska Reinsdorf, who was a communicator of outstanding ability with a warmth and vivacity which immediately won our hearts.
- \* And finally - wait for it - the song, our weekly pride and joy was banned. Harley reckoned that as a result of this decision our eardrums had been spared the weekly assault of Rotarians singing out of tune.

