

1976 - 1977

Meru Perry was the President during this period, Lew Wilson was his Secretary and Ron Jennaway was the District Governor.

This was a year of good development and splendid fellowship. A happy relationship was enjoyed with District Governor Ron Jennaway, and the Club was chosen to dispense, at a reasonable price, the liquid refreshments at the District Conference.

This was the wondrous Year of the Shirts. Past President Peter Roach, who had interests in that line of business, arranged for the manufacture, in Asia, of a quantity of shirts, with a Rotary identification design. Made in three different colours and in three sizes, the quality of material and the painting were excellent. It is reported that Past President Merv, who unfortunately is no longer a member of the Club, purchased four and in his own words "despite every effort to reduce them to shreds, using them as work-shirts, I am frustrated in the attempt. And they still look new".

New president



RETIRING President of Strathfield Rotary Club, Mr R. Thurgar, hands over the collar of office to president elect, Mr M. Perry at the club's changeover night. Mr Perry told members the club had pledged itself to greater activity in community affairs. The club would sponsor a food and clothing doorknock for the Smith Family on Tuesday, August 17, he said. — Photo courtesy Cameo Photographics.



One event, during President Merv's year, which should be reported, is the Monster Fireworks Display. Although, as we will see, it was not a roaring success, financially, yet oddly enough it is remembered by this writer who helped dispense "hot dogs" on the evening as a fun night. I will tell it in Merv's own words, as he reminisces.

"The most vividly recollected event during my presidency which I don't wish to remember but can't forget, was the monstrous fireworks night at Concord Oval, organised in conjunction with the Burwood Rotary Club. It was meant to be a huge financial success and a great social and recreational interest. Owing to the state of the weather on the night, insufficient supporters passed through the gate, and much food remained unavailed. When the time come for the pyrotechnical display, the public arrived in force, but not through the 'turnstile'. They simply parked their cars at the kerb along the nearby streets and enjoyed the exhibition without financial contribution. A sizable loss was incurred by both Clubs; but our Club finished the year with a record financial result to that date. How could I forget what was probably the first financial failure by the Club, in charity functions."

It was this sense of humour and quick recovery from some slight contretemps which cemented the fellowship of the Club and paved the way to greater achievements.

