

Introduction 60 years



Rotary was a flourishing 54 year old organisation when the Rotary Club of Pine Rivers was formed. The Rotary Club of Nundah was instrumental in organising a Rotary Club in the Pine Rivers area. Ivan Franklin, President of the Nundah club, visited the area on 19 August 1958 to conduct an Extension Survey. This was to identify the businesses in the area, with a view to their being the source of potential members. The village population was 3,000, and the rural population was 4,000. The three towns were Strathpine, Petrie, and Kallangur. These towns were gradually growing and linking to become one.

A new dam had been built at a cost of £800,000, while land was being resumed for a further dam at a cost of £8,000,000. The paper mill was extending by £1,500,000. A new highway and duplicated rail line were being constructed.

The nucleus of the new club was identified. Members were Homan O'Hara *Milk Production*, Robert Nixon-Smith *Sheep Raising*, Peter Curtin *Baking Retailing*, Bill Cook *Newspaper Publishing*, Sonny Lohrisch *Banker*, and Eric Brander *Co-op Manager*.

The Charter members and officers of the Provisional Rotary Club of Pine Rivers held their first meeting at the Country Club Hotel, Strathpine, at 6:30 pm on 24th March, 1959.

The territorial limits of the Rotary Club of Pine Rivers were defined as that area of the Pine Shire north of the South Pine River. The provisional members decided to meet weekly each Tuesday evening, commencing at 6:30 pm. The admission fee to join the club was set at £3. 3. 0, and was to be paid before the applicant could qualify as a member. Annual dues would be £8. 8. 0

The club was duly admitted to Rotary International on 22 May 1959. Meetings were to be held at the Country Club Hotel, Strathpine, on Tuesday evenings at 6.30 pm. Board meetings were to be held on the first Tuesday of each month.

The Charter Night was held in Finneys Auditorium (where David Jones are now in Queen Street) on 4th July, 1959. On behalf of the members of the Club, Bob Nixon-Smith accepted the Charter from District Governor, Rotarian George Nelson. The District Governor inspired the new members with an address entitled "Adventure in Service"

So what has changed? We still meet on Tuesday evenings at 6 for 6.30 pm. Our board meetings are still held on the first Tuesday of the month. The annual subs £8. 8. 0 in 1959 would now be worth \$264.52, but our subs are \$220 for this year. So Rotary is cheaper now for us than it was in 1959. And we don't charge an admission fee. We now meet in the third location since the Country Club Hotel in Strathpine. The club was chartered with 25 members. We have 25 members today.

Our club was chartered by the Nundah club, which was chartered by the Brisbane club, which was the third club in Australia, after Melbourne and Sydney. It could have been Sydney first, because the people who arrived to start Rotary in Australia

arrived first in Sydney. But, it was Easter and the Sydney show was on, so the place was closed. They went to Melbourne and started that one before returning to Sydney. Interestingly, the Canadians were asked by Rotary to travel to the Antipodes to start Rotary. It was all ships in those days - no aeroplanes.

But I digress.

Rotary in 1959 was a very different animal to the one we have today. Many rules are much more relaxed. And in many ways Rotary is the better for it. Society has changed and so has Rotary.

Our club has worked along similar lines since we started. The food van is a good example. We use the service of food in one way or another as our primary source of funds. Golf Days have also been good projects, even though we have not had a great number of golfers in the club.

Our other strength has been our youth projects. Youth Exchange, National Youth Science Forum, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Rotary Youth programme of Enrichment are some. We have an excellent example of our involvement with Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars here with us tonight. I especially thank Terry Vo for making the effort to come from Nashville to be with us on this occasion.

Our involvement with Rotary Peace Scholars is not significant, but it has been rewarding. We have sponsored a Rotaract club, a couple of Interact clubs, an Earlyact club, and a couple of Probus clubs - for young retirees. The paper mill no longer exists, but the university being developed on that site will give us new opportunities to work with young people and probably start another Rotaract club.

We aren't a club of high flyers. We have had one District Governor from our club, and I congratulate Alan on the success he achieved during his year.

But we are a club that has always got in and done the work, and had fun doing it. We always find a way to make our work enjoyable, and have good fellowship. I congratulate the whole club on its busyness, and on the achievements it produces.

I am always proud to be able to look around and look back at what Rotary has achieved. There have been significant changes brought about by our District. RYLA started here. That programme delivers amazing value for money to the training of young adult leaders. The fight to remove Polio from the world started here - against the wishes of the World Health Organisation. Think about that for a moment. You have an accountant from Nambour running a world-wide group of clubs. He wants to do something and the major world authorities say don't do it. He enlists the help and support of the relevant people in Rotary and away he goes. Now, after many years, he does have the major world organisations backing the plan and assisting. As of 22 May, the world has seen 17 cases in Pakistan and 7 cases in Afghanistan this year. Nigeria should be declared Polio free later this year, and that will leave only two countries in the world with polio. Thank you, Sir Clem.

Rotary and our club have very proud histories. I hope that in my year as President I have encouraged our club to continue its proud history. From here, I join with our members as we take our club into the next part of its journey.