

Year: 1959-60

RI President: [Harold T. Thomas](#) from [Auckland](#), New Zealand.



Theme: Vitalize! Personalize! Build Bridges of Friendship

Convention held at [Miami-Miami Beach](#), Florida, USA on May 29 - June 2, with 11,354 delegates.

District Governor: Arthur C Brand, Lismore

District Conference location:

Club President: Bob Nixon Smith (continuing after the Chartering).

## the first year .....

### 1959 -1960

1905	First Rotary Meeting	Chicago
1921	First Rotary Club in Australia	Melbourne
1923	First Rotary Club in Queensland	Brisbane

The Rotary Club of Pine Rivers was now officially part of Rotary District 260, a huge area in south east Queensland, which also stretched well south of the border to include Ballina and Lismore. The new members were very keen to be part of the growing Rotary movement. They travelled near and far to represent their club at various Change-over celebrations and other functions arranged by other clubs in District 260. One of these clubs was Maleny.

Our club's first community service project was begun that year. It was the establishment of a park on the corner of Anzac Avenue and Young Street, Petrie. Appropriately this was named *Rotary Park*. The club maintained the park for many years and, in time, provided children's playground equipment and shelters. Many club functions were held there.

Even in this first year, our club members showed great interest in developing Youth Service programmes in our district. Seventeen candidates were interviewed before a panel of local identities to choose a youth to represent Pine Rivers in "Gundoo Week". Miss Iris Braithwaite was sponsored in the Jaycees Annual Ball.

### GUNDOO WEEK

As a part of the Centenary Celebrations of Queensland as a state, and as the young Princess Alexandra was to be the representative of the Queen at the celebrations, it was decided that Youth be involved in the planned week of celebrations. **GUNDOO** was the name chosen for the group of 262 young ladies and men chosen to be representatives. **Gundoo** is an aboriginal word meaning **Youth, or Youth Corroboree**. It immediately fired the imagination and commitment of many Rotarians and so Rotary District 260 took up the challenge.

The young winners came to Brisbane in September, 1959. It was such an outstanding week including such activities as the A.B.C. Concert, Rotary Tree Planting, Church services, Youth Rally in the Exhibition Grounds, and a Garden Party at Parliament House. They met the Premier at the **Gundoo Dinner and Ball** at the City Hall. A special reception was held at Yungaba State Migration Hostel and trips made to the Gold

Coast and Mt Glorious. The climax was the Centenary Parade and Carnival in the Botanical Gardens. Home entertainment was provided by Rotarians and their families.

It was such a success that Rotary decided they must capture the spirit of **Gundoo**. On 2nd May 1960, Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) was born.

### **COMMUNITY SINGING**

In the early days of Rotary, singing was an important part of Fellowship. At dinner meetings, Grace was often sung, as was the National Anthem. A song was an integral part of the programme.

At Conferences, songs were sung before the commencement of each session, and on recommencing after a cuppa or after lunch. There was always a Rotarian with a fine voice, to lead the members. Everyone seemed to enjoy it.

One of the songs sung at the Charter Meeting of our Club reflected the attitude of Rotarians to singing.

### **MEN OF ROTARY**

*(sung to the tune: [Men of Harlech](#))*

Men of Rotary let us holler  
Into music let us waller,  
If the words we cannot foller,  
Holler anyway!

Loose your belts and let us bellow  
Louder than the other fellow.  
Let's pretend we're sweet and mellow;  
Holler all the day!

Tear the roof asunder,  
Never mind a blunder;  
Placid guys, with sleepy eyes,  
They one and all sit up and start to wonder.

Shout then for 'tis Rotary needs us,  
Look at the guy who madly leads us,  
We're all proud of the land that breeds us,  
Let us tell the world.