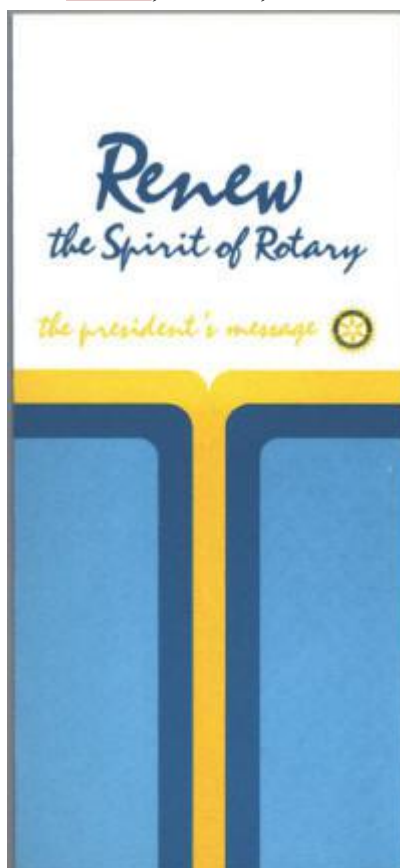


**Year:** 1974-75

**RI President:** [William R. Robbins](#) from [Miami](#), Florida, USA.



**Theme:** Renew the Spirit of Rotary

**Convention** held at [Montreal](#), Quebec, Canada on June 8-12, with 12,975 delegates.

**District Governor:** Bennett (Ben) Bennett, Caloundra

**District Conference location:** Nambour

**Club President:** Jock Mitchell

Exchange Student:

Inbound: Peter Blomquist, USA                      Host parents

Outbound: Miss Amanda Hawkins

In August 1974, the pattern of fund raising and the concept of self-help was firmly established when Past President Eric Pinches suggested that a caravan should be purchased and refitted for the Club's use, as a mobile Pluto Pup and Hot Dog Stand. This was done and it was first used at the Combined Schools Carnival and Fireworks at the Pine Rivers Showgrounds at Lawnton. It proved very successful. A shed was erected on Eric Pinches' property to house it.

At a function held at the Holy Spirit Church, the van was dedicated to Charter member and Past President Homan O'Hara. Those of us who worked in that van in later years will always carry with us the memory of Homan O'Hara, sitting at the table at the end of the van preparing the wiener sausages. Homan had refined the process of drying a wiener, inserting the wooden skewer and rolling it twice in flour before stacking them ready for dipping in batter. When we sold Pluto Pups in numbers of six hundred to one thousand on busy afternoons at school fetes, his skill was something to appreciate.

During this first year, the services of members were called upon several times to operate at school fetes at Bald Hills, Strathpine, Petrie, Strathpine Kindergarten and Kallangur. Other functions

assisted by members were the fete at the Marsden Home for Boys, the Dayboro Rodeo, Presbyterian Church Fete (Petrie), Petrie Ambulance and the Rowing Club Regatta. Members held a Fish and Chip Night at Aspley which raised \$500. A boat was raffled, selling tickets at the boat show as well as locally. The prize was won by a resident of Strathpine.

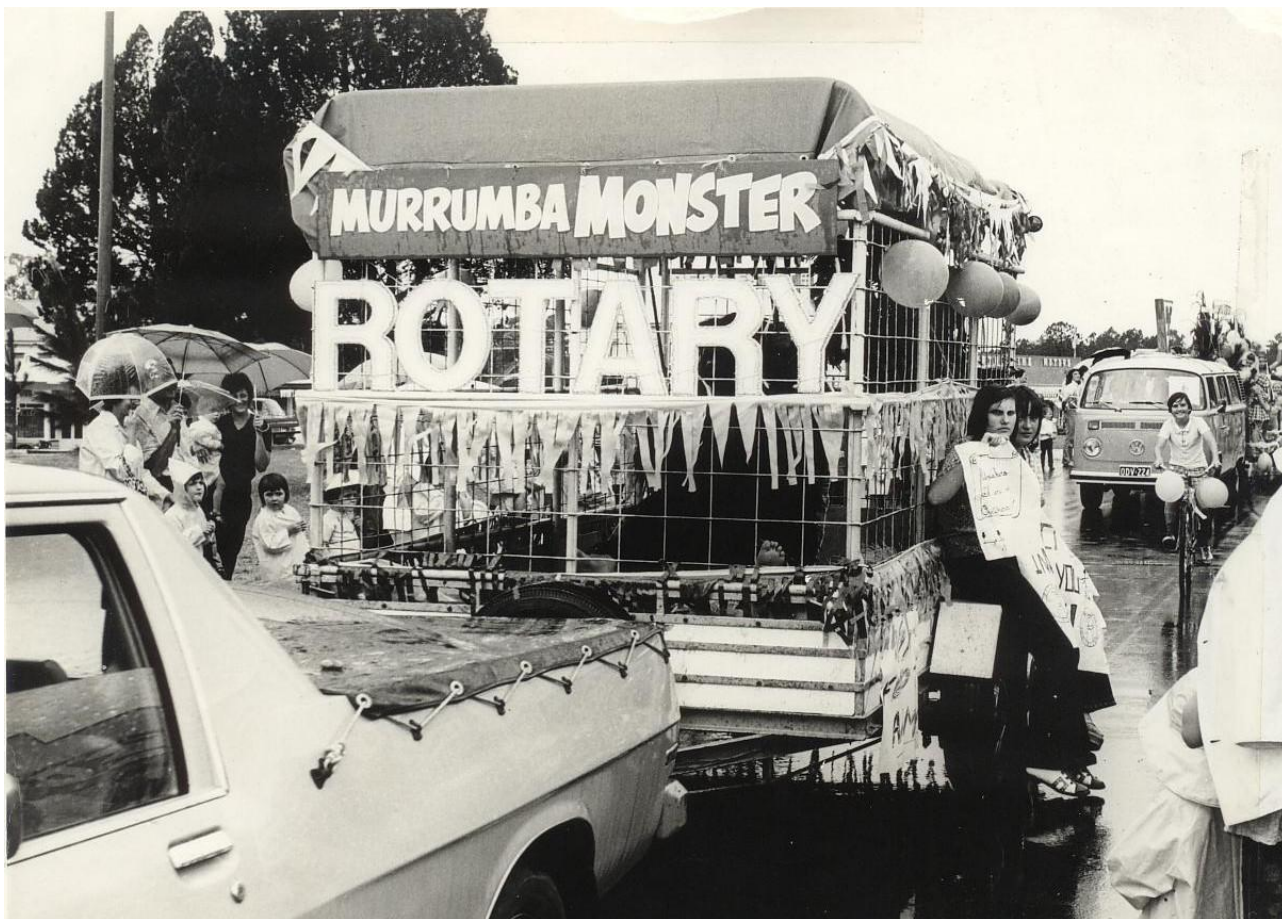
The club was active in other areas of service. It sponsored Noelene Francis for the Study Girl Quest. It nominated Rowley Forbes and John Haynes to be part of the District's Group Study Exchange team to visit Wisconsin, U.S.A. Both were selected. Miss Amanda Hawkins was selected as our outgoing exchange student and spent a year in Japan. The club hosted exchange student Peter Blomquist from Ironwood, Michigan. Peter now lives in Carson City, Nevada where he works for the Government.

The Club hosted a One Day Institute for all Rotarians in District 260 at the Showgrounds. (This was a type of training seminar for Rotarians along the lines of the present District Assembly Day and President Elect Training Day.)

To encourage excellence in vocational service, Rotarian Phillip Major organised a Courtesy Contest for employers and their employees.

Assisted by our club, Rotaractors of the District arranged and enjoyed a Raft Race down the Pine River.

Further work was done in Rotary Park when canopies were supplied and erected over the picnic tables and seats.



Rotary's Monster float in the Mardi Gras.



Can you recognise Don Hawkins?



L to R: Jock Mitchell, Charlie Black, Homan O'Hara, Bob Bell, Ian Craig, Barry George, Tom Mellers & son.  
Several members were needed to "man the van".



Homan O'Hara and Barry George getting ready for work in the van.



Plaque placed in the van, dedicating it to Homan O'Hara.

### THE PLUTO PUP VAN

The first of the club's hot food vans appeared regularly at school fetes and other functions arranged for fund-raising purposes. This was a time when the Parents' & Citizens' Associations of most schools were very active in this field, and schools depended on fetes as a major source of revenue. Over a period of some years, the Club's Pluto Pup Van raised a considerable amount of money for these organisations.

The van arrived at the school manned by Rotarians and stocked by the club. Members prepared, cooked and sold the Pluto Pups during the course of the fete. Mostly it was a very busy time as the Pluto Pups were very popular with the public. Six or seven hundred Pups were sold at most fetes, with over a thousand sold at the larger schools. It was once calculated that we produced, cooked and sold on average, one Pluto Pup every 20 seconds.

The bulk wieners came packed in plastic bags and needed to be wiped dry before being rolled in flour, placed on a wooden skewer, dipped in batter and cooked in hot oil. The van had a table at one end at which a couple of Rotarians or Rotaryannes worked, drying and rolling and skewering. They were then passed along the bench to be dipped in batter, drained briefly and then dropped in the hot oil to cook. After cooking they were stacked ready for sale. Many a Rotarian burnt



his fingers grabbing the hot skewer to serve a customer.

The batter was prepared in large quantities prior to the fete, to the following special recipe.

- 4 eggs;
- 3kg Self-raising flour;
- 1 x 300g tin instant full cream powdered milk,
- 1 tablespoon salt; and
- approximately 1 gallon of water.

Mix the powdered milk with some of the water. Beat the eggs and add the milk and mix well. Add salt. Then add the flour and rest of the water gradually, beat well, making sure there are no lumps and making a nice smooth batter. This mixture does approximately 350 Pluto Pups.

Its method of operation appealed to the P. & C. Assns as all they had to do really was to accept the donation a few weeks after the fete was over. After the fete, the club deducted from the gross takings, the costs e.g. batter, wieners, oil and a small percentage for running costs e.g. van registration, insurance and so on. The balance was then donated to the organisation running the fete. Frequently when this exercise was undertaken, and the function had been a small affair, the nett amount would be rather small so it was added to from club community service funds to make a larger donation. No wonder the van was popular with the organisers.