



## District Assembly II – 1997

I hadn't been particularly active in Rotary for some time, apart from minor roles and supporting club activity when the President Elect for the year 1996-97, Geoff Noble, asked me to be Chairman of the organising committee for the hosting of the District Assembly in his year of office

I hadn't been on the Board for a while so I was ready and pleased to have the opportunity to take on a more active role at that time. The District Governor Elect John Reddish asked Geoff if Brunswick would do it and Geoff accepted the challenge.

It was brilliant; I was given over a year's notice thanks to John Reddish and Geoff's foresight, I am a strong believer in forward preparation and planning and I like being able to condition our members' months in advance of the project by giving them plenty of notice. This was always going to be another Brunswick success story.

Because of the notice I was able to attend the final planning meeting of the Rotary Club of Glenferrie who were hosting the District Assembly the year before us (1996). John Higgins and I were able to attend the setting up of that 1996 District Assembly (in Wilson Hall, Melbourne University) to get a general idea.

There were really three of us who set it up. If there are two ways of doing something our then President Geoff Noble had only one way, which was properly. John and I were in accord with that. Although Geoff left the planning and working of it to me and John he played a pro-active role in setting the theme, communicating with John Reddish and setting the outline.

John Higgins had given me such tremendous support with "The Walk" I asked him to assist in the planning, which he did. As well as being a sound thinker and adviser, he was able to help with technical and office support.

It was to be held at the new Victoria University of Technology (now Victoria University) campus at St Albans. The District went to the new university as we got a special deal because of Professor John Stearne of the Rotary Club of Sunshine. The Western Ring Road was incomplete; desktop printing was still quite primitive and computers nowhere near as sophisticated as today.

Geoff, whose parents were deaf, established the theme of "Deaf Awareness" for the Assembly. This was promoted on the especially designed stationary and with an interpreter at the Assembly.

We relied on John Higgins for design and printing.

Clubs were circularised during the first week of February seeking registrations with a follow up on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1997.

The cost to clubs was \$20 per member and \$8 per District Directory. This included before assembly refreshments and morning tea.

The Club was organised into teams. The teams were

1. Parking and recovery;
2. Guiding and rubbish;
3. Reception, Accounting and information;
4. Catering and Recovery;
5. Room Captains and Hosts;
6. Special duties and recovery
7. Catering and General support

I can't remember anyone blowing any trumpets or getting any medals, perhaps John Reddish said something to Geoff, all I know is we did it well and to our own satisfaction, that was enough.



## Why did we bother?

Well that's simple, because we were Brunswick.

I don't know whether it's been done before or since but because we were there we did it.

After the Assembly we set up stalls to provide hot dogs, tea, coffee and tinnies so that those attending could fraternise for a while afterwards. Many naturally enough wanted to get away, however, a large number did stay for half an hour or so for a chat and refreshments. We did this from 1 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. Most had gone by 2 p.m.

We provided at least 100 hot dogs (it may have been more) at \$2 each and tinnies at \$2 a can. To quickly handle the rush of everyone finishing at once we set up three stalls (there was the added advantage at St Albans of space) with three teams of two at each stall. One collected the money the other handed out the tins. That was a total of nine teams selling beer simultaneously.

We also offered three tins for \$5, but Doug Walsh watched over by his amused partner, Lauri Penttila, offered an even better deal "four cans for \$10 !!!!" – the deal sold well.

## Board Meeting

The Board Meeting will take place this week, on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2009 in President David's office INLLEN, 29 Sydney Road, Coburg at 6 p.m

## Bushfire

I'm running a Funeral Directors' Seminar on 9<sup>th</sup> May, followed by a dinner with the Deputy Police Commissioner Kieran Walshe speaking on "Black Saturday, could it happen again?". The following day (Sunday) we are touring the area, starting with a presentation by the C.F.A. Operations Manager, Mal Fallon, at the Healesville C.F.A. Fire Station.

I went to see Graeme Bates, the Captain of the Healesville Fire Brigade. He told me how on Black Saturday the fire was heading to Healesville on a one to two kilometre front. In between the fire front and Healesville the observer in the tower told Graeme "It's heading your way, I'm out of here". Graeme had already sent one fire truck and crew to Drouin and stood with one fire truck and water pumping trailer and about forty fire fighters to defend their town.

Unfortunately for Marysville and Narbethong the wind changed, Healesville was saved but it was now on a 20 kilometre front and went through to wipe out those two towns and much more. The wind was carrying burning leaves, bark and debris from as far away as Kilmore.

I am not seeking people, it's a busy enough month in any case, but there are a few spare tickets if anyone is interested for the dinner or the tour.

## Programme

Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2009	<b>Board meeting 6 pm</b>	At President David's office INLLEN, 29 Sydney Road, Coburg
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2009	<b>Lunchtime meeting 12.45 for 1 pm</b>	Bridie O'Reilly's Guest speaker t.b.a.
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2009	<b>Evening meeting 6 for 6.30 pm</b>	Fellowship
Saturday / Sunday 16 / 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2009	<b>Visit Rochester 11 am Sat to 2 pm Sun</b>	Cluster drought examination hosted by RC of Rochester
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2009	<b>District Assembly</b>	Wilson Hall, Melbourne University
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2009	<b>District Governors' Changeover</b>	Melbourne Park function Centre
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2009	<b>Changeover</b>	T.B.A.