

Rotary Connects.....the World

Rotary Club of Parramatta City

June 25th 2020
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Vale Sir Clem Renouf, the RI president who inspired Rotary's polio eradication efforts, was buried today

Sir Clem Renouf, the 1978-79 Rotary International president who helped propel Rotary toward its top goal of eradicating polio worldwide, has died at age 99.

Renouf was a member of the Rotary Club of Nambour, Queensland, Australia, for 70 years. He served as RI director, Foundation trustee, district governor, RI committee member and chair, and International Assembly discussion leader. In early 1979, on a flight home from the Philippines, Renouf read a magazine story about the eradication of smallpox. He wondered if Rotary's new Health, Hunger and Humanities (3-H) Grants could be used to eliminate another disease. They, for the first time, allowed Rotary projects to be taken on by more than just one club or district.

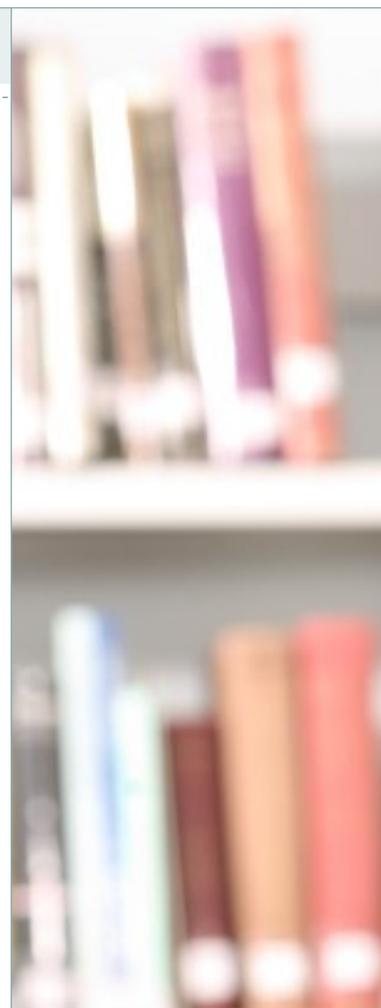
Renouf consulted with a friend, John Sever, who was a district governor in Maryland, USA, and chief of infectious diseases at the United States National Institutes of Health. Sever happened to be friends with Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin, who developed polio vaccines in the 1950s and 1960s. After doing some research, Sever said that polio would be the best disease for Rotary to work on.

"Clem then set his sights on polio eradication as a Rotary worldwide project," wrote Ray Klingensmith, 2010-11 Rotary International president, in a tribute to Renouf. In November 1979, the RI Board agreed to set the eradication of polio as a primary goal of the 3-H program. Renouf was instrumental in raising funds for the early effort. "In order to raise money, Clem asked all the clubs to contribute some cash, which was about \$15 per member, for service projects, and the appeal raised the surprising amount of \$7 million," Klingensmith wrote. "Part of that money was then used to fund the first polio immunization project in the Philippines ... The success was real"

In 1985, Rotary launched the PolioPlus program, and it later spearheaded the Global Polio Eradication Initiative with its partners — national governments, the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF. The GPEI continues to pursue worldwide eradication of polio.

Renouf served in the Royal Australian Air Force during World War II. After the war, he was an accountant and partner in the firm of Renouf and Clarke. He was an associate of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries and Administrators and a fellow of the Australian Society of CPAs, later called CPA Australia. He was also a founder of Sundale Garden Village for the elderly.

Rotary honored Renouf with the PolioPlus Pioneer Award for his extraordinary service to PolioPlus, as well as the Service Above Self Award, Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service, and Rotary Foundation Distinguished Service Award. He was a Rotary Foundation Benefactor and Major Donor and a member of the Paul Harris Society and the Bequest Society. Klingensmith described Renouf as quiet but a natural leader. "Clem was always kind and supportive of younger Rotarians, and he is the one who gave me a chance to travel the Rotary Road," Klingensmith wrote. "Rotary would not be at the high point it is today without the improvements made by Clem and his team."



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MEETING NOTES-MALCOLM BROWN

Novotel Hotel

22nd June 2020

This was a physical meeting of club members, with suitable spacing at the tables. Our guest was Bob Aitken, Zone Convenor for Rotarians Against Rotary, who himself was talking to us by remote control by zoom from the laptop of our president, Barry Antees.

Our Toast

PP Phil Brophy proposed a toast to the granting of the patent for the first commercially successful typewriter, in 1868. The machine, which featured the QUERTY keyboard, as district from the original keyboard which had alphabetical placing of keys. The inventor was Christopher Sholes.

Membership

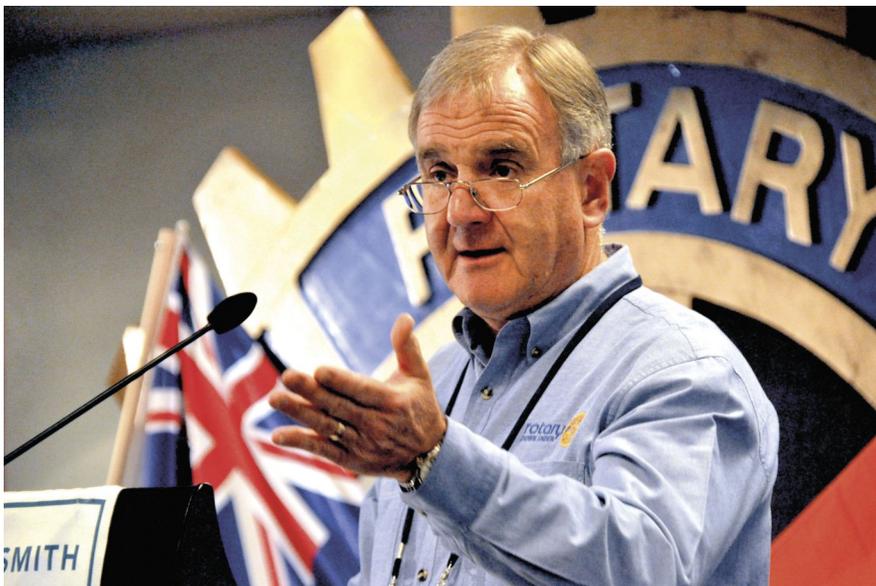
President Barry said we have one prospective member who was keen and might bring in other members. He said that apart from that we should be looking out for more members. In particular, we needed an accountant and a real estate agent in the club, to give it more diversity.

Club Anniversary

President Barry said the 50 anniversary of the chartering of our club was coming up in 2022 and he thought the occasion should be properly commemorated. There were still a couple of charter members around and he thought they should be interviewed and a suitable publication produced.

The Elimination of Polio

Bob Aitken said the big news was that Nigeria, which had not had an outbreak of polio for three years, had now been proclaimed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as being polio free. The next step was to have the entire continent of Africa given the same declaration. WHO was surveying hospitals, water supplies, sewerage and anything else which might show a trace of the virus "Our friends tell us that in August this year, the entire continent of Africa will be polio-free," he said. At the end of last week, there were 67 cases of polio in the world, of which 51 were in Pakistan and 16 in Afghanistan. The problem area was the border country between the two nations. If the world could get on top of that, it might be a couple of months before "the whole thing is put to be", which would be a monumental achievement, particularly for Rotary.



MEETING NOTES-MALCOLM BROWN

Bob said there were 400,000 people in Australia suffering from post-polio syndrome. Rotary was sponsoring clinics to train professionals on how to deal with the problem and was making headway. He said that throughout the world, the Rotary polio program and its resources had been enormous help in the fight against the cod-19 virus. The authorities fighting that campaign had made use of Rotary surveillance and resources in areas where those diseases were or had been. PP Keith Henning said there were 77 million children in the world who could now walk because polio had been eradicated.

The Centenary of Rotary in Australia

Bob Aitken said the centenary of the chartering of the first Rotary club in Australia in April 1921 was fast approaching. It was envisaged that a book be produced similar to very successful one turned out for the 75th anniversary. The new book would have 400 pages, of which 200 would be Rotary history, 100 pages for Rotary in Action and another 100 pages of photographs with captions, all of which, he thought, would make a good read. Rotary in the Solomons, Timor and Papua New Guinea would also be included. A committee of eight was working on the book.

The Graffiti Removal Trailer

PP Keith Henning said at the board meeting that the club had had a district grant of \$2,500 to purchase a graffiti trailer but had only spent \$1,590 on the purchase, so a refund had been made to district. The trailer was now at the SES depot in Fairfield and there would be a formal launch of the graffiti project, with the participation of the Granville club which was partnering us. The campaign would be highlighted on our website and the public would be invited to make requests for graffiti removal. We would be able to publish before and after photographs of the sites to show what we were doing.

Club Finances

In the board meeting following the club meeting, PP Keith Henning said the club had a small surplus in its operating account. At the end of May we had had \$5,300 in our fundraising account. We had started the financial year with \$1,800 in the account, which meant we had gone up by \$3,500.

Distribution to Charity

President Barry said that \$1,000 each would go to the Rotary Foundation and to Australian Rotary Health, \$750 would go to the Rotary Club of Ramon Magsaysay and \$500 to Shelterbox. He said \$250 would go to Rotarians Against Malaria and he would like the club to sponsor two students to go to RYPEN before Christmas, each student costing \$400 to \$450. PP Keith said an invitation had been sent out to club members to make a donation to the Rotary Foundation and there had only been two responses. He said the Foundation had done a great job, and the only way we had ended up with the graffiti trailer had been because of funding from the foundation. Money put into the foundation would come back to the district in three years.

Destitute Students

President Barry said that Rotarian Harry Hunt, who ran a motel in the Liverpool area, had offered to cook meals to feed 19 students at the University of Western Sydney who were destitute but that the meals needed to be picked up by our club members to be distributed. PP Keith Henning and PP Malcolm Brown said they would look after that.

Our Nepalese RAWCS Project

PP Barry said that three clinics to deal with the mental health issues of Nepalese refugees in Australia had been held this year and he had some sponsorship to cover the program .

MEETING NOTES-MALCOLM BROWN

The Festival of Pangea

President Barry said his idea of a multicultural festival in October 2021 to celebrate Australia's cultural diversity was to be held in Sydney but the idea had now taken off. DGE Warwick Richardson had spread the idea and it was now being taken up further afield. But he said our club should focus on our own program, which would be held in Sydney and at present had the support of councils at Penrith, Blacktown and Parramatta. Our club would play the leading role in the program. Barry had made applications for grants and for sponsorship money. He said the club needed to start working on the project. A lot of invitations were to be sent out.

Poignant Pictures



Guest Speaker
Virtual club meetings
Monday June 29th 2020 at 1.00pm

We have the return of Samah Shda, who was recently interviewed by SBS for World Refugee Week. Samah will give us an update on the work she has been doing for World Refugee's as well she has now received District endorsement to be a Rotary Peace Scholar and will find out in November if she has been accepted.

We are inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Samha Shda

Time: Jun 29, 2020 01:00 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77933717116?pwd=ZFhVZHhUVm5VOUIoMXZoUHVNVzUT09>

Meeting ID: 779 3371 7116

Password: 6SzzR2

ROTARY

WE CONNECT PEOPLE

Rotary unites more than a million people

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

WE TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES

We take action locally and globally

Each day, our members pour their passion, integrity, and intelligence into completing projects that have a lasting impact. We persevere until we deliver real, lasting solutions.

Giving to Our Causes



Promoting Peace



Fighting Disease



Providing Clean Water



Saving Mothers and Children



Supporting Education



Growing Local Economies



Rotary
Club of Parramatta City

