



**First Samford Rotarians**

When Rotary commenced in Samford in 1980, this village and the surrounding district looked somewhat different. There was no Samford Downs; there were no buses running to the area and 75% of our shops have come into existence since then. The first President of Samford Valley Rotary was John Thurgood, a goat breeder, the Vice President was Ranald Dewar, a medical practitioner, the Secretary was Steve Ovenden from postal services and the Treasurer was Ian Wills, a banana grower. The other club members were Adrian Stanton (Real Estate), Peter Hall (Hotel and Industrial Supplies), Tom Needham (Taxi Service), John Patane (Pharmacy), Gordon Sheaffe (Pastoral Research), Clem Gillies (Farm Produce), Ian Mattewson (Engineering Process Instrumentation), Jim Ceccato (Building Services), Norm Carlyon (Community Welfare Services), John Soutar (Freelance Film Director), Ray Bevridge (Primary Education), Alan Hill (Automobile Electrical Services), Brian Sheahan (Veterinarian), Russell Barrett (Restaurant Services), Peter Collins (Painting and Tiling) and Frank Aston (Senior Active). In recent years several of these foundation members have passed away.

**Things about Rotary**

- Rotary operates in 210 countries and has 1.3 million members
- Rotary is a non-religious and non-political organization.
- Rotary is about service to others and fellowship.
- Rotary commenced in Samford 31 years ago.
- Rotary Clubs usually change their President every 12 months. The current President of Samford Valley Rotary is John Broadbent and the incoming President will be Ian Ruffles.
- Rotary has a focus on local communities but also has national and international projects.
- Rotary contains a number of special interest groups. These groups have vocational or leisure interests as their

focus. For example, there is a bridge playing fellowship, and wine appreciation, motor bike and bird watching groups.

**Rotary and Peace**

Some aspects of Rotary do not receive immense coverage in local and even national press and one such aspect is the involvement of Rotary with hopes of world peace. Rotary sponsors the largest privately funded international scholarship program in the world. Rotary has sent 35,000 students to over 100 countries and these "cultural ambassadors" acquire knowledge and skills to take back to their home countries.

It is the hope of Rotary that such visits by students to other cultures will help strengthen understanding in a culturally diverse world.

Rotary has recently teamed with seven universities to offer a master's program in peace and conflict resolution. The only university in Australia involved in this program is the University of Queensland. Rotary believes that these programs may foster the next generation of ambassadors and social leaders and thus help in the prevention of future conflicts. When these scholars visit other countries Rotary clubs must provide counsellors.

In 2004-05, the Rotary Club of Samford Valley provided counsellors for both a Peace and Ambassadorial Scholar and in 2010-11 Ian Spiller is counsellor for Pantea Beigi, a Peace Scholar from Colorado.

**Hat Day**

Australian Rotary Health, one of the most outstanding successes for Australian Rotarians, has anointed Friday, May 20th as "Hat Day". On this day or in fact any day in May, Rotary Clubs are being encouraged to raise funds for Australian Rotary Health. Samford Rotary will be participating in this event and two members of Samford Rotary, Peter Gloor and Brian Hansford, have self-appointed themselves as judges. Why? Well there must



*Rotarians Peter Gloor and Brian Hansford, the self-appointed judges for Hat Day.*

be something they can do in a competent manner.

**Looking Back in Samford Rotary**

In 2005 twenty two members of the Samford Valley Rotary Club canoed from Sweeney Reserve to Young's Crossing and back. This was an excellent outing organised by Breakout Adventures.

It would be entirely unfair to identify those members who recklessly cast themselves into the turbulent and treacherous waters of North Pine River, especially as we had been told the small sharks in the river were relatively inoffensive gummy sharks. However, the proprietor of a Samford Valley house cleaning business (Rowan Macaulay), the Deputy Principal of Samford School (Lorelle Holcroft) and an office administrator from TAFE (Cathy Knauth) did seem unduly cold and wet on their return.

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