



What a Reunion!

The twenty-year anniversary of Royce Abbey's District Governors



On Tuesday 9 June 2009, the District Governors of 1988-89 came together at the Rotary Club of Essendon to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Royce Abbey becoming Rotary International President and to launch the Royce Abbey Awards for 2009-10.

Almost 100 Rotarians, friends and guests enjoyed a welcome lunch organised by the Rotary Club of Essendon for the 'Blue Boys'. The PDG's were known as the 'Blue Boys' because blue was the DGs' jacket colour that year.

20 YEAR REUNION

To coincide with the 20th anniversary of Royce Abbey becoming Rotary International President and Royce's 87th birthday, the Australian District Governors of 1988-89 were invited to reflect and celebrate their year. The PDGs were asked to wear their DG's blue jacket – and were known affectionately by Royce as his 'Blue Boys'.

President Colin Bell of the Rotary Club of Essendon hosted a lunch attended by 21 PDGs of 1988-89 and their wives including the widow of Ron Palin (WA District 9460) – Mary, and 95 Rotarians and guests. It was the first time that the PDGs and Royce had gathered together as a group since 1989. Many travelled great distances to celebrate the occasion.

In addition to the lunch, a birthday party was held that evening to celebrate Royce's 87th birthday and the birthday of PDG Fred Marsh (WA District 9450). A fun night was had by all complete with birthday cakes and lots of laughs.

The Royce and Jean Abbey Endowed Fund of The Rotary Foundation, in conjunction with the Crawford Fund, was initiated by all of the District Governors of 1988-89. The Endowed Fund provides opportunities for teachers and researchers from developing countries to enhance their capabilities in agricultural activities, providing new skills for use in their countries. Successful scholarship recipients have come from countries including Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Indonesia. They have studied a variety of agricultural courses and expanded their knowledge and learned skills that are transferrable to their home countries.

To raise money for the Endowed Fund, clubs purchase a Royce Abbey Award (A\$1,000). The Royce Abbey Award is given to Rotarians to recognise and encourage their enthusiasm and commitment to the ideals of Rotary at Club, District and International levels. To date, 118 Royce Abbey Awards have been granted to Rotarians in Australia and overseas – raising some A\$118,000 for agricultural scholarships for researchers and teachers.

Each PDG at the 20th Anniversary Reunion accepted the challenge to promote the " **Royce Abbey Awards**" in their District.

For further information about the **Royce Abbey Awards** and the **Royce and Jean Abbey Endowed Fund of The Rotary Foundation**, contact the **Royce Abbey Awards Committee** - PP Roger Leask on (03) 9379 5546 or via email: rleask@eftel.net.au, or PP John Chadderton on (03) 9326 2305 or via email: glenord@netspace.net.au.

Attendees: John and Fay Lang (NSW District 9680), Fred and Edna Marsh (WA District 9450), Terry and Joan Barritt (WA District 9470), Dick and Les Milner (SA District 9500), Bruce and Audrey Edwards (SA District 9520), Jack and Ruth Aubin (NSW District 9700), Kevin and Jess Harris (QLD District 9570), Alf and Helen Swan (VIC District 9780), Mick and Jewel Matthews (VIC District 9810), and Brian and Betty Bowen (VIC District 9790).

Apologies: Harold Ogilvie, David and Olwen Wills, Ian and Jocelyn Wilson, Chas and Dot Bopf, John and Cath Paddison, Jack and Joan Latter (NSW District 9670), Keith and Peg Smith, Patricia Rees (Dennis - deceased), Audrey Crowe (John - deceased), and Heather Llewellyn (Ted - deceased).