

Rotary Club for Stanthorpe

Steps for the organisation of a Rotary Club at Stanthorpe were taken at a meeting held at the Country Club Hotel at Stanthorpe yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by 23 local business and professional men, and had been organised by Rotary special representative Theo. H. Cantor, of Warwick.

The meeting voted to apply for a charter in Rotary International, thus adding Stanthorpe to the list of more than 7400 cities in 83 countries and geographical regions of the world where Rotary plays a leading part in the progress of the community.

The 53 present at the meeting included Governor of the 31st District (Governor "Rocky" Crust, of Cairns), Immediate Past Governor Ted Gold (Toowoomba), the president of the provisional Rotary Club of Stanthorpe ("Ding" Bell), vice-president John Dart, secretary Jack Richardson, treasurer Bob. Chilton, directors Hubert Beven, Percy Nagel and the Rev. Bob Park, sergeant-at-arms Wally Blake, and provisional members Tommy Thompson, Len Williams, Bill Laurence, Charlie Ferguson, Fred Rogers, Wally Blake, Reg. Anderson, Lindsay Cameron, Jack Glynn, Doug. Croston, Rolly Pa'mer, Sell Dowling, Des Mountford, Lou Walters, Chas. Clarke, and Monty Millyard.

Also present were the president (Geoff. Windridge) and members of the Rotary Club of Tenterfield, and fellows from the Rotary Club of Warwick and Toowoomba.

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wick. The new club is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Warwick, whose members have brought Rotary to Stanthorpe through their friendship with the business and professional men of Stanthorpe.

One of the distinctive features of Rotary is that Rotarians are welcome visitors at meetings of all Rotary Clubs throughout the world.

In his address to the meeting yesterday Theo Cantor, as special representative, defined Rotary as "a fellowship of some 360,000 business and professional executives throughout the world who are united in the 'ideal of service,' which is thoughtfulness of and helpfulness to others."

"Members of Rotary Clubs," he continued, "endeavour to exemplify their motto, 'Service above Self,' in all of their daily business, social and civic contacts by placing the obligation to serve others before the desire for profit for themselves."

"A Rotary Club selects its membership on the basis of one active member from each recognised business and pro-

one active member from each recognised business and profession in the community, so that it is a representative cross-section of the business and professional interests and activities in the community."

The new Rotary Club of Stanthorpe has the same general objectives as all other Rotary Clubs in North and South America, in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Islands of the Pacific—to encourage and foster the "ideal of service" as a basis of worthy enterprise, and, in particular, to encourage and foster the development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service; high ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society; the application of the "ideal of service" by every Rotarian to his personal, business and community life; the advancement of international understanding, good will, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the "ideal of service."

The new club will hold its regularly weekly meetings in Stanthorpe at the C.W.A. Rest Rooms every Thursday at 6 p.m. As soon as it has been formally admitted to membership in Rotary International, its official Rotary charter will be presented by Governor Aub. Budd of Murwillumbah at a special meeting which will be attended by Rotarians from many of the clubs in this Rotary District. Governor Aub. Budd is at present attending a Rotary convention in Paris.

Governor "Rocky" Crust addressed the meeting yesterday on the new club's obligations and particularly mentioned the international scope of Rotary. Immediate Past Governor Ted Gold, as chair-

Governor Ted Gold, as chairman of Rotary's extensions committee, in his address, dwelt on domestic affairs of Rotary and the great fellowship that existed between business and professional men in this world-wide organisation.

Address by Rotary Governor

Speaking to approximately 30 Rotarians at the Warwick Rotary dinner this week the Governor of the 31st Rotary District (Mr. R. H. Crust) outlined some of the interesting experiences he had when he visited Rotary International headquarters in the United States.

Before commencing his address on the Convention in the U.S., Mr. Crust, who is a native of Cairns, said that it was five years since he had passed through Warwick.

"I must compliment you on the wonderful progress your city has made," he said.

"It shows that you have confidence in your city, and where a city is progressive you will always find a progressive Rotary Club. On glancing through your reports I find that the club has presented playground equipment to the City Council, and it has also conducted a Civic Week. That sort of thing is happening throughout the world in places where Rotary is established.

"It is important that you should realise something of the international aspect of Rotary. I find in some clubs that members are inclined to forget they are members of a world-wide organisation.

"Possibly many times before, you have been told Rotary was founded by a man named Paul Harris," said Mr. Crust.

He said there were a certain number of "ifs" to that remark. If Paul Harris had not been a lonely young man, if he had not met three other lonely young men, and if Rotary had not been an idea that appealed to many men, it might not have been

formed.

"However, on February 23, 1950, Paul Harris did form the first Rotary Club. And what is it that makes Rotary appeal to people like you and I throughout the world?

"It gives us the opportunity of enjoying fellowship and the aim to improve the lot of our fellow men, and that thing alone—the aim of improving the lot of our fellow men—is one of the prime reasons for Rotary," said Mr. Crust.

He then spoke of the city of Lake Placid, in north-eastern United States. Here, he said incoming governors went to school at a huge private club. The whole organisation was given over to Rotary International free of cost.

Mr. Crust said that at the International Assembly 600 Rotarians and 207 governors were present. They had their expenses paid for them by the shortest route to that place and some 400 travelled at their own expense and attended the Rotary institute.

"They discussed problems dealing with Rotary throughout the world and discussed how to make it easier to help the lot of our fellow men," said Mr. Crust.

"NO FOREIGNERS"

At the international assembly there were men from countries all over the world, and after seeing them all there he realised one thing—that there were no foreigners in Rotary.

"We are all brothers under the skin, and it was very strange to see fellows, some of whom could not speak Spanish or French or Japanese, all going round arm in arm after the various sessions discussing problems brought before us

at the assembly," said Mr Crust.

He told the gathering that the first night he was there they were entertained at a president's dinner. What happened at that dinner was something special. It was held in a huge dining room and when they entered they passed through a guard of honour comprising the staff of the club.

None of them knew who they were to sit with at the tables and he found himself with an Englishman and his wife, an Indian and his wife and three other Rotarians.

When the meal was served those at his table noticed that the Englishman and his wife only ate a small piece of their beautiful fillet steak.

When asked why, the Englishman said that that particular steak, measuring about 3in. x 3in. and 1in. thick, would be one month's ration of meat in England and if he ate it all in one meal he would be very sick indeed.

Mr. Crust said that that particular incident brought home to him the conditions the English people were experiencing at that particular time.

He told of his visit to Milan, in the United States. The Rotarians were met by a guard of honour of mounted police, who escorted them through the city with sirens blaring. They were taken to the City Hall and tendered a civic reception by the Mayor and given the freedom of the city.

At one function each of them was asked to speak for five minutes on their Rotary Club in their own country. The first speaker, a Rotarian from the Philippines, told the story of a small child in his locality who had swallowed several bobbypins. The only way he could be saved was to send him to America for an operation by a specialist. Rotarians arranged for the

Rotarians arranged for the mother and child to go across and back entirely free of cost, and the child's life was saved.

Another speaker, a Rotarian from Luxembourg, said he had attended a Rotary conference in 1927 in Ostend and Belgium. When he returned to his home town he wrote to International in Chicago and asked if he could form a Rotary Club in Luxembourg. Today Luxembourg has one of the biggest Rotary Clubs in Europe.

Mr. Crust said that when it was his time to speak he told the secretary he could not tell much about Australia in five minutes, and he was allowed ten minutes in which to speak. He then told the conference the wonderful things Rotary had done in Australia and New Zealand. As he went to sit down the Americans wanted to hear more.

"I got up again and told them what a wonderful country we have, and I told them of the rolling wheat lands, the mineral deposits, the primary industries and about our beaches being better than Waikiki," said Mr. Crust.

"I learned that the American people have a very soft spot in their hearts for Australians because of the wonderful hospitality tendered to their boys when they were in Australia.

"If any of you are fortunate to go to the States beware of American hospitality," he said.

He referred to a speaker from Athens who said that when the war came and

Greek buildings were destroyed the Rotarians took off their coats, rolled up their sleeves and re-built whole villages so that their people would be sheltered during the winter.

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Another speaker, who came from Chili, said that such was the prestige of Rotary in Chili that people looked to Rotary for leadership before taking on any special project apart from a Government project.

Mr. Crust said he met a Rotarian from Japan over there, and was very happy to shake him by the hand. The Japanese told Mr. Crust that in Japan during the war Rotary was defunct and that the minority had to do what the majority required of them. He was a past governor of Rotary in Japan until the war. Now, with the war over, there are more rotary clubs to the square mile in Japan than in any other country in the world, except New Zealand.

An Englishman also spoke at that conference. His speech showed that no matter how tough the job was if they only took off their coats and got into it then that job would be done.

Mr. Crust also spoke of his visit to Mexico City, and told of some amusing incidents that happened there.

He said that at one conference there were 8000 Rotarians. Some came because of the glamour and some because of the fellowship, but most of them were present because they felt they could contribute something to Rotary. Many of the suggestions made there might be adopted later in Rotary, said Mr. Crust.

In conclusion he referred to the little lapel badge worn by all Rotarians.

"This badge is an honour badge. If you are wearing it it is practically an 'open sesame' to every place you visit in your travels. Wherever you go, consistently wear it, not only at meetings but every day of the week," he said.

A vote of thanks was proposed by the president of the Warwick Rotary Club (Mr. T.

posed by the president of the Warwick Rotary Club (Mr. T. Cantor), and this was carried with acclamation.