

# Enduring library, club links are looking to the future

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The Rotary Club of Sydney, N.S.W., has had a close association with Sydney's Mitchell Library from its earliest days.

This was shown at a function which included the unveiling of a plaque commemorating the first tree planted by a president of Rotary International in Australia, a special display in the Mitchell Library reading room lobby of historical documents related to the 84-year history of the Rotary Club of Sydney and the public launch of the new history of the Rotary Club of Sydney in the Library's Dixon room.

The first R.I. President to visit Australia was Sydney W. Pascall who was in Sydney in 1932. Sydney Pascall was on a world tour and had vowed to plant a tree in every country he visited.

He planted a Port Jackson fig tree outside the Mitchell Library at the corner of Macquarie Street and Shakespeare Place on April 25, 1932.

The then Principal Librarian of the Public Library, William H. Ifould, a charter member and past president of the club, arranged for a commemorative plaque to be placed at the foot of the tree to mark the occasion. The roots of the tree dislodged the plaque in the 1950s.

The Rotary Club of Sydney made the replacement of the plaque some 50 years later as one of its R.I. Centennial projects.

The wording on the plaque is:

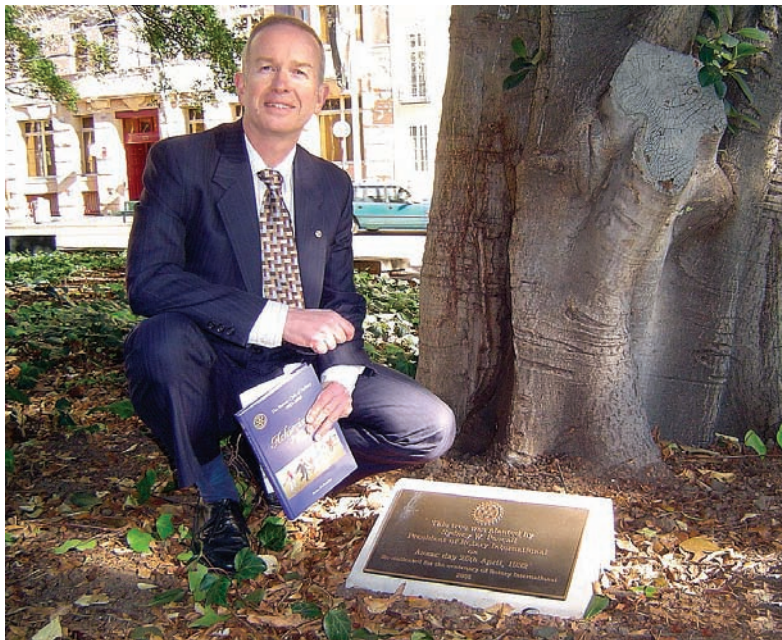
"This tree was planted by Sydney W. Pascall President of Rotary International on Anzac Day 25 April 1932. Re-dedicated for the centenary of Rotary International 2005."

President Bruce later presented a copy of the history to Mitchell Librarian, Elizabeth Ellis, at a function in the Library's Dixon room.

Brian Fletcher followed this with an address on the history and the strong association between the club and the library since the club's chartering in 1921.



Rotary Club of Sydney, N.S.W., President, Bruce Edwards, at right, Mitchell Librarian Elizabeth Ellis and club historian, Brian Fletcher inspecting the Rotary display in the lobby of the Mitchell Library.



Rotary Club of Sydney, N.S.W., President, Bruce Edwards with the replacement plaque at the foot of a 73-year-old Port Jackson fig tree outside the Mitchell Library at the corner of Macquarie Street and Shakespeare Place, Sydney. The tree was planted on April 25, 1932. The roots of the tree dislodged the initial plaque in the 1950s.