



# Rotary Club of Melbourne

## Angus Mitchell Oration

“ Let us reaffirm our faith in a common purpose, a common conviction and a common devotion. Let us be determined to seek to understand the minds of other people and to weigh their interests alongside our own. Let us make a decision not to be just members of a Rotary club, but Rotarians in the fullest sense”. ”

The Rotary Club of Melbourne was chartered on 21 April 1921 as the first Rotary Club in Australia. The Club now has over 250 members and is proud to have many women as very active members in the club.

Within the charter membership of the Club were many of Melbourne's leading business and professional men, including Sir John Monash, the great engineer and leading general from World War I and John Latham, later Sir John Latham, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia.

The Club is proud to have had one of its most distinguished members become the first Australian to be elected as the President of Rotary International.

*Sir Angus Mitchell was a truly great Rotarian and is credited with the reestablishment of Rotary in Japan after the end of World War II.*

Angus Mitchell was inducted into the Rotary Club of Melbourne in December 1927. He was President of the Club in 1931-32 and was elected District Governor in 1934-35 and again in 1937-38. In 1948-49 he became the first Australian to be elected to the office of President of Rotary International. He was created a Knight Bachelor by Her Majesty the Queen in 1956. Two years later he was the first member of the Rotary Club of Melbourne to be named a Paul Harris Fellow. Sir Angus Mitchell died on 18 August 1961.

In his honour and as part of the Club's fiftieth birthday celebrations in 1971, the Board of Directors initiated the Angus Mitchell Oration. The Oration has been delivered at the nearest meeting to the birthday of Rotary which was established by Paul Harris on the 23 February 1905 in Chicago USA. The inaugural Oration was delivered by the Rev. I. B. M. Parsons and has been delivered since by many eminent Australians.

### The Oration has been delivered by:

1971 Rev. I B. M. Parsons  
1972 Rev. D. M. Henbury  
1973 Past RI VP Doug Stewart  
1974 Mr. Kenneth H. Gifford QC  
1975 Rev. Dr. Davis McCaughey  
1976 Dr Herman Sanger  
1977 Professor Harold Hunt  
1978 RI Pres. Elect Clem Renouf  
1979 P.D.G. Frank Newman  
1980 H.E. The Gov-General Sir Zelman Cowen  
1981 P.P. Sir John Reid  
1982 Dr Owen Parnaby  
1983 Rev. H.J. Butterley  
1984 Rabbi John Levi  
1985 P.P. Professor Harold Ford  
1986 Bishop Peter Hollingworth  
1987 Sir Gustav Nossal  
1988 H. E. The Governor Dr. Davis McCaughey  
1989 RI Pres Royce Abbey  
1990 Prof David G. Penington  
1991 Comm Bramwell Tillsley Sal. Army  
1992 Rabbi John Levi  
1993 Mr. Justice John Phillips  
1994 P.P. David Wittner  
1995 Dr. P. G. Law  
1996 Rev. Kevin Green  
1997 Monsignor Gerry Cudmore  
1998 Mr. Nobby Clark  
1999 H.E. The Governor Sir James Gobbo  
2000 Rev. Tim Costello  
2001 The Rt. Hon. Sir Ninian Stephen  
2002 H.E. The Gov General Dr Peter Hollingworth  
2003 Dr. Barry Jones  
2004 Gen. Peter Cosgrove  
2005 Ms Elizabeth Proust  
2006 P.P. John Kendall & P.P. David Wittner  
2007 Mr. Justice Michael Kirby  
2008 H. E. The Gov General Mj Gen Michael Jeffery  
2009 Ms Louise Adler  
2010 Mr Bill Kelty  
2011 Graeme Samuel AC  
2012 Don Argus AC  
2013 Professor Roz Hansen



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