PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Our Zoom Rotary meeting last Wednesday evening was, I think, very successful and certainly created a sense of togetherness that will become increasingly important as the COVID-19 crisis extends into the unknown. The practice session on Monday evening allowed many of us to experiment and learn the ins and outs of Zoom! Everyone was disciplined, well behaved, and prepared so congratulations to you all, and especially first time users. I know some of us were outside our comfort zone but with time, patience, and perseverance we will all make it work. 15 Rotarians logged in - my aim is to get 20 logged on at once! And thanks to Sue for all the extra information she provided that helped to allow a seamless introduction to on-line meetings.

AG Sue and her three Presidents (Horsham, Horsham East and Warracknabeal) met via Zoom on Thursday evening to compare notes on how we are responding to the crisis – we are all in this together! We all agreed that our Bulletin is absolutely crucial in maintaining our connectedness with each other and the wider community. So please help Wendy in supplying any tit bits, photos, jokes, short pieces of interest etc so that our Bulletin continues to be the corner stone of communication, both within and outside our Club.

Our exchange student Simon is having an uncertain time in trying to return home to Germany. It seems that sometime near the end of April may be possible but it is a moving target so fingers crossed that things work out.

We will be holding weekly Zoom meetings every Wednesday at 7 pm for 30 minutes (except Board meeting nights). Next week we will celebrate Clem Quick’s 50 years in Rotary with a guest Zoom appearance of Clem himself!

Yours in Rotary,

Tony

COMING DATES…. Actually everything is TBC :)

But did you know……

APRIL is RI Maternal and Child Health Month
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<tr>
<th>DUTIES</th>
<th>Wednesday 8th April 2020</th>
<th>Wednesday 15th April 2020</th>
<th>Wednesday 22nd April 2020</th>
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<td>2 min talk</td>
<td>Kelsea</td>
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**Inductions:**

Birthdays: Chris Hewitt - 8 April
Anniversaries: -

**Two Minute Talk...... My First Job**

**David Drage**

Like many farm kids my first job was doing simple farm tasks for pocket money. For me it started off feeding the chooks and collecting the eggs. By the time I was a teenager I was at boarding school so farm work was limited to school holidays. Boarders were not allowed to have after school jobs so I didn't enter the real workforce until I had finished my secondary education.

As an adult I have always been self-employed in the pursuit of converting sunlight and rainfall into food and fibre. I have done a fair bit of casual work in that time though, mainly working in shearing sheds. This extra income helped buy farm equipment and paid for some overseas travel.

It was only seven years ago, as a 42 year old, that I filled out my first job application form and had my first job interview. This was when I applied to be a board member of the Wimmera CMA. After over 20 years in the workforce this was the first time I have had to sell my skills and knowledge. It was a challenge, but I was successful. So that's my first real permanent job; part time public servant!
Selfies of Rotarians/ Rotaractors Out & About ... or not.

Calvin - Still keeping busy on the farm

Rob Mc - Checking the sowing machine before cropping starts

Rotaractors Colleen and Darrien - Young people do the best selfies! Looking good!

John L - Out for a spin on his beloved bike.

Chris G - Working from home. Lots of computer screens ...but not as many as John Aitken has!

Tim - Farming doesn’t stop for the virus.

Helen - My torture at the moment. Should keep me busy until Christmas!
How Rotarians are self isolating......

Some ‘light reading’ for Rotarian John.

First leg of the ‘social distancing, self isolation ’ Triathlon at 41 Gardiner St.

More reading under supervision from his life guard.

Bernie and Karen O’Connor enjoying a delicious family curry banquet ....alone ....... but with their family photos and their family’s favourite drinks.  Great idea B & K!
REPORTS and EVENTS .... Meeting Wed 1 April 2020

<<<<<<<<< April 1st ZOOM MEETING
A first for our club, and it was a great success. Congratulations Tony and Sue for organising it so well.
Lots of attentive faces here!

President Tony
- The RI Friendship trip to Seattle has been postponed, but our club will remain on the ‘Interested’ list.
- Bowelscan has been cancelled for 2020.
- Warracknabeal Rotary Park. Ian Penny reports that we are right to start the fencing, but a working bee is on hold for now.
- Simon was presented with a pair of Ugg boots as a farewell gift from the club. Thanks to John Aitken for organising this. Hopefully Simon will join us at a Zoom meeting so we can say goodbye.... Not ideal, but the best we can do in current circumstances.

Secretary Sue
- RI have put out a new Constitution which must be adopted by all Rotary clubs around the world. Sue has emailed it to all Rotarians and Tony will call a special AGM so that we can vote to adopt it.
- Then our Board will lead our club to reassess our own bylaws.
- Next week is a ZOOM Board meeting.
- At the Zoom meeting, Rotarians offered to keep in contact with Honorary Rotarians during these challenging times. (Addinsalls-Julie, Duffields-Peter, Maureen S-John T, Leo, Ruth S-Wendy, Gwen H-Chris H)
- Horsham Rotary clubs have had exchange students in Italy and Germany and both have now returned safely home to the Wimmera and are now in isolation for the required time.
- Dental Grant: Sue has spoken to coordinator, Christine Dufty from RC Nhill. We have done all we can at the moment. Watch this space!

Youth (John Tonkin)
All prospective 2020 RYLarians are keen to participate in September if the program goes ahead.

John Aitken
RNH is looking for any supplies of suitable protective clothing for staff. Contact John if you have any ideas.

Community Service (Peter)
Henty highway clean up postponed until a later date.
Highlights of my exchange (part1)

My 16th birthday and awesome cake with my first host family.

First encounter with kangaroos at Halls Gap

AFL Grand final at the MCG with Chris Hewitt

WSC school camp at Trafalgar Square.

Weekend in Swan Hill with all the inbounds and the next outbounds

Other inbounds.
Rotaract Conference

Gold Coast Feb 2020

Part One
The fun began far before the day of departure, booking the trip...
I cannot count the amount of times the refresh button was hit on Webjet, looking for the best possible package for us all after the price hike post New Years.
Refresh, refresh, refresh, oh that’s a good one! Wait it’s Tiger Air and a back packers. We didn’t feel like having all our things stolen; back packers these days can be “interesting”. After a week of refreshing we found our place! Now the wait for D day.

Who went?
Pres. Sam Schulz, Kelsea Wall, Megan Watts, Mark Pendelbury, Colleen Tabone and Honorary Rotaractor/Exchange Student, Simon Ossing.

With a mid morning start, far later than previous trips, we set out two abreast and one in the back of each car. Our second challenge we didn’t expect was playing Tetris (Google it) in the boots, never having taken quite so many people to a conference before! We did our usual 3 drive through stops and eventually we landed in Melbourne, but not before Kelsea lost her licence for driving like a mad woman, just kidding she was following Sam, who is a very sensible driver. Once we hit Melbourne it was all smooth sailing... through rows of cyclists and kids on skate boards. Joking! It was just one cyclist and we barely knicked him.
We parked, they took us to the airport, we checked in, popped our bags on the self bag check and Megan’s bag sailed away with no tags on it, never to be seen again. The lady assured her they’d find it and chuck it on the flight. How hard could it be to find the only bag cruising around the airport without a tag? Considering there were hundreds of thousands of bags, maybe slightly harder than the pretty lady at the bag drop imagined. But we were “content” with her answer and headed to Krispy Kreme (for Donuts) before our flight in 20mins.
Forty minutes later when we had perused EVERY single shop in the airport, we were still waiting for our flight, which had been delayed. The only positives we could think of for this situation were, it gave the airport staff more time to find Megan’s bag, and it gave us time to have more donut eating competitions.

End part one. More next week.
Sam Schulz