The Changeover dinner last Wednesday evening was somewhat different with several “firsts”, but never-the-less I think it was a successful and enjoyable occasion. My only regret was that we were limited to 20 people in the Community Centre and so partners and our Honorary members were precluded although many others did join by Zoom. The three highlights were, sadly, saying farewell to Jean Wise on her retirement from Rotary after 21 years of service, acknowledging Sue Watts’ three years as Assistant Governor for our Group three Clubs (Horsham, Horsham East, and Warracknabeal), and of course our very high profile guest speaker, Australia’s Chief Scientist, Dr Alan Finkel. Everyone was very impressed and pleased that such sensible information and advice was being passed to the highest levels of the Australian government – confidence in government decision making has improved dramatically! There were a few anxious moments but Zoom did connect all the guests and visitors outside of the Community Centre very well.

So we now pass from “Rotary Connects the World” to our new RI President Holger Knaack and his theme of “Rotary Opens Opportunities”, ROO for short. He is encouraging us to seize the many opportunities Rotary offers to enrich our lives and the communities we serve. He also reminds us that Rotary isn’t just a Club that people join but rather an invitation to endless opportunities. Everything we do in Rotary opens another opportunity for someone, somewhere. Excellent observations to reflect upon.

Yours in Rotary, Tony
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DUTIES</th>
<th>Wednesday 8th July 2020</th>
<th>Wednesday 15th July 2020</th>
<th>Wednesday 29th July 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>Rotary House</td>
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<td>6-6:30pm Fellowship dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reception/Visitors</td>
<td>John Aitken</td>
<td>Jack Daniel</td>
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<td>Chris Gunn</td>
<td>Chris Hewitt</td>
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<td>John Liersch</td>
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<td>Heads &amp; Tails</td>
<td>Rob McRae</td>
<td>Mandy Morcom</td>
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<td>2 min talk ‘My First Job’</td>
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<td>Ian Penny</td>
<td>7:30pm BOARD MEETING Rotary House?</td>
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<td>Program</td>
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<td>Guest Speaker: Anthea Nichols</td>
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<td>BYO Dinner</td>
<td>“Outward Bound in Antarctica”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(see below)</td>
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<td>7:30pm BOARD MEETING Rotary House?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vote of Thanks</td>
<td>Tony Gregson</td>
<td>Kelsea Wall</td>
<td>7:30pm BOARD MEETING Rotary House?</td>
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</table>

**This week at Rotary.....**

Under current COVID 19 restrictions it continues to be challenging to have ‘normal’ meetings and this may be the case for some time. But we will be doing our best.

Please read this carefully.

- We will continue to use Rotary House as our venue unless otherwise stipulated.
- Gathering numbers are restricted so please ensure you contact Chris Gunn if you’re an apology.
- Weekly catering puts pressure on our Fellowship Committee so this week we will try a BYO take away dinner and drinks - just like a picnic. To be eaten at 6:30pm.

Inductions : Ben Bentley 2/7/1980 (40 years)
Birthdays : Julie O’Brien 4th July
Anniversaries :
It was unfortunate that, due to Covid 19 restrictions, numbers at the Changeover dinner needed to be capped at 20. Those who could not attend were invited to join the meeting via Zoom, and several people took up that opportunity.

President Tony welcomed guests and then John Tonkin presented an interesting personal anecdote to illustrate the reach of Rotary in his toast to Rotary International. DG Phillip Beasley responded via Zoom. Phil stressed that re-establishing our working relationships with each other, other clubs and further afield is paramount this year, considering the disconnect that has been forced on us during the pandemic.

After a delicious meal served by CC volunteers, Tony gave a glowing tribute to Jean Wise, who has retired after 21 years in Rotary. (see next page).

Our guest speaker, Dr Alan Finkel, was a highlight of the night. Having the Australian Chief Scientist address our club, albeit via Zoom, was such a privilege for our club. (see following page)

President Tony followed with his report on the 2019-2020 Rotary year, noting the major achievements, challenges and events. (see following page)

Tony Gregson was inducted back into the position of President for a second year- thank you and congratulations to Tony. Rotary District Governor, Phillip Beasley, inducted Tony via Zoom, with outgoing AG Sue Watts doing all the pinning and presentations.

Tony then addressed the audience with his view for the coming year, including introducing the 2020-21 Board members (pictured from left).

Chris Gunn (Treasurer), Mandy Morcom (Vocational Service), Sue Watts (Secretary), David Drage (Community Service), Tony Gregson ( President), John Aitken ( President elect), Kelsea Wall (International Service), John Tonkin (Youth Services), Bernie O’Connor (Fellowship director), Wendy Hewitt (Bulletin and Public Awareness)
Guest Speaker : Dr Alan Finkel AO. Australia’s Chief Scientist.

Background:
Alan is the eighth Chief Scientist of Australia. He has extensive experience and international recognition in science, technology, research, health and education. Alan’s academic background includes electrical engineering (PhD), neuroscience and developing research instruments. He founded Axon Instruments in Silicon Valley, USA, is a Fellow of several prestigious organisations (Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, Australian Academy of Science and the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences) and was Chancellor of Monash University for 17 years.
He is passionate about the role and importance of science in the community and one of the driving forces behind STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) education in schools. He is well known for the Finkel Review of energy policy in Australia and is also involved in the Horizon Scanning report investigating transformative technologies in Australian agriculture to assist farmers respond to future challenges.

Presentation:
Dr Finkel’s presentation was titled “Working In Isolation”. He spoke of four projects that he has been involved in during recent months. Two projects were associated with the Covid 19 response. Dr Finkel worked with the Aust & NZ governments, researchers and manufacturers for the acquisition of the thousands of highly sophisticated Invasive Ventilators that were, according to the modelling, necessary for Australia to cope with the predicted pandemic. In February, Australia had 2000 of these ventilators, by March the forecasted need was 75,000! Currently they’re about half way through delivering their target of 7,500 to the national stockpile, which is an incredible achievement. Under Dr Finkel’s leadership another project was to bring the latest research knowledge from experts from many disciplines to the attention of government. Such rapid and impartial advice to government was generally a rarity, so it was a significant achievement, and it has contributed to Australia’s outstanding success so far to keep the number of Covid 19 cases well below the predicted outcome.

Dr Finkel then turned his focus to his involvement with the report on Climate and Disaster Resilience that is being done by the CSIRO following Australia’s recent summer bushfires. He spoke about the importance of the government working with evidence based advice.

Finally Dr Finkel spoke about his involvement as chairman of the Low Emissions Technology Investment Roadmap Committee, which advises the federal Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction. His panel will be presenting to the government a list of technologies that have both large potential to reduce carbon emissions as well as significant economic advantages. A final strategy is expected to be presented to the UN by the end of the year. “This is potentially one of the most important things happening in emissions reduction in Australia”, said Dr Finkel.

In conclusion, Dr Finkel stated that the work being undertaken to plan ahead and build resilience for the future of Australia is moving in the right direction.

Rotarian Peter Martin thanked Dr Finkel for his informative presentation, and added that it was very encouraging to see that government is increasingly working with and seeking advice from evidence based research.

We were indeed fortunate to have a guest speaker of such high calibre with a very enlightening presentation. (We couldn’t present the usual Rotary pen to Alan, but Pres Tony promises to drop off a very good bottle of red next time he visits Alan in Melbourne!)
Thank you Jean Wise

Tonight the Rotary Club of Warracknabeal farewells Jean Wise after 21 years of dedicated Rotary service to our community. Jean was a trailblazer for women in Rotary, being our first female member inducted in February 1999 with the classification of Library Services. This was just 10 years after the Rotary Legislation had changed worldwide to allow women to become members of what had been a male dominated organisation since its beginnings in 1905. As you might imagine there was some hesitation in having a female member but Jean soon established herself as a willing, hardworking, diligent, and dedicated Rotarian and was soon elected our first female President in 2003/2004. Then followed a long list of firsts too numerous to mention; as far as I can make out Jean has occupied every position in the Club except Sergeant and Corporal and in some cases multiple times like being the first to be President three times. She has also served on numerous District Committees including being Assistant Governor for three years. All of this culminated in Jean being recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow in 2015, and including a sapphire in 2016.

As you all know, Jean has contributed massively to organisations outside Rotary. These include serving as a councillor of our Yarriambiack Shire including two terms as mayor, Board membership of Woodbine, the historical society, wheat-lands museum, the local A & P Society, Neighbourhood House, and the list goes on. This culminated in Jean being awarded an Order of Australia Medal in 2012.

Jean has always been a great support and mentor to all members of our Club and a role model for our increasing number of female members of our Club. We salute and congratulate you Jean for your 21 years of Rotary service and wish you all the best in your retirement from Rotary and we now welcome you as an Honorary member.

Jean was presented with a club plaque of appreciation, flowers and an honorary membership. DG Phillip Beasley also congratulated and thanked Jean on her 21 years service to Rotary.

Jean ’s response was typically humble and inspirational.

“….. It was a big decision to retire from Rotary: it took me 12 months! Rotary has been a wonderful organisation and experience for me. It challenged me, increased my self confidence, took me outside my comfort zone and helped me to grow. A word to new members: Let this opportunity take you anywhere....Thank you and best wishes to Tony and the club for the future”

Thanks Assistant Governor Sue Watts

We also recognise the excellent job Sue Watts has done as Assistant Governor for our Group Three clubs (Warracknabeal, Horsham and Horsham East) over the past three years. In this role Sue has supported all clubs, but especially the presidents and secretaries, with her extensive knowledge of Rotary. This passion extended to her diligence, patience and drive to help our Rotary clubs to function at their best. Congratulations Sue on a job well done and thank you.
Outgoing President’s Changeover Report... some highlights. (With lots of photos in last week’s bulletin)

First let me say, “what a year”. We started normally and cruised through the first half of the Rotary year with our traditional activities. And then in mid March the coronavirus suddenly became serious and so the Board had no option but to make the momentous decision to cancel our weekly Rotary meetings until further notice. Very sadly several important Rotary functions (Annual Rotary Conference, other celebrations, Primary School breakfasts, etc) also had to be cancelled. After a few practise sessions with most of us out of our comfort zones, we began weekly Zoom Rotary meetings, going about our normal Rotary business as much as possible.

Despite the interruptions to our Rotary year we did have several highlights that brought joy and celebration to our Club. First was our German exchange student, Simon Ossing, who fitted in extremely well with his three host families, the school and the wider community and in fact with everyone he came in contact with. For the first time all three host families (the Keam's, Golder's and Byron's) were not connected with Rotary, a necessary experiment that worked extremely well. Many thanks to John Aitken and Helen Peters for setting up this new approach to Youth Exchange and to Chris and Glenda Hewitt who were outstanding in the role of Simon’s councillor. Finally, our own Laura Daniel returned home from her own student exchange in Germany. As expected, she gave an excellent talk on her time in Germany, her many European travels, and her wonderful host parents.

Another highlight was recognising the outstanding contributions two people have made to Rotary and the community. We used a Zoom meeting to celebrate Clem Quick's and Stan Deans’ 50 and 52 years in Rotary respectively. Glowing tributes for their exceptional service to both Rotary and the community added to their gracious acceptance of another Paul Harris recognition each, and presented on-line by DG Rosanne Kava.

The visit of RI President Mark Daniel Moloney and his wife Gaye to Ballarat was most exciting. Rotarians from all over our District 9780 and several surrounding Districts gathered to hear the President expand on his theme of “Rotary Connects the World”. It was a huge honour for our District to host a sitting world President and unlikely to ever happen again.

Our major project for the year was the Rotary organised Australia Day celebrations at Anzac Park. Once again our Club presented a well organised, efficient, and entertaining morning for our community. And special congratulations to our Australia Day chairman Ian Penny on being awarded an OAM in the Australia Day Honours for his significant service to the community.

Youth activities are always a highlight of every Rotary year. This year several of us helped to run the University of Newcastle's Science and Engineering Challenge for year 9 & 10 students in Horsham; again a triumph for students, teachers, and facilitators! And of course the primary school breakfasts continued until pandemic restrictions halted all activities. RYLA and RYPEN were regrettably postponed and cancelled although Defy the Drift, another Rotary Youth program, was attended by our own local, Kyle Walder.

To me, another highlight is always hearing our own Rotarians talking about their passions. This year we heard from John Aitken on allied healthcare, Kelsea Wall on her trip to Nepal, Mandy Morcom on her work as only one of five Nurse Practitioners in rural Victoria, Megan Watts on her Friendship Exchange in Canada, and David Drage and Tim Hewitt giving their maiden job-talks.

Membership is always a closely watched issue in any Rotary Club. This year we inducted four new Rotarians (David Drage, Kelsea Wall, Tim Hewitt, and Rob McRae) and alas we had one resignation in Christine Gumpala who relocated to Murtoa and Jean Wise's retirement after 21 years in Rotary.

Plans for a Dog Park within Rotary Park have been drawn up with significant input from the Rotaract Club as it is now a joint activity. Hopefully we can complete this project during the next Rotary year. The sheep flock has kept us afloat financially and even provided us with scope for working bee’s, eg, lamb marking. This also allowed us to support, with $5000, the fire relief contributions from Warraknabeal and district to help the people of Walwa recover from the devastating fires that ravaged their district during the summer. I thank Peter Martin and his band of shepherds (Peter & Andrew King, Aaron Zwar, Tim Hewitt, David Drage) for looking after this inspired project.

My thanks go to all Directors for their diligent and conscientious work during this challenging year. As well the Bulletin editor, Wendy Hewitt, has done an outstanding job in keeping the Bulletin alive and full of interest during these uncertain times of COVID-19. Despite the second half of last Rotary year being full of “firsts” for all the wrong reasons we were still able to live by our theme “Rotary Connects the World”. Let’s hope for more normal times next Rotary year. 

Tony Gregson, President.
Firstly, thank you to my fellow Club members for again entrusting me with the Presidency of your Club for the coming Rotary year. It is now 32 years since I was first President and although lots of things are different now, the principles of Rotary are still the same – having fun and working and helping in our local communities, and supporting the less fortunate here at home and overseas in developing countries. Rotary has many programs to support these ideals, and the emphasis on the Rotary Foundation is stronger than ever.

As you all know the RI President chooses a theme for his year in office – this year, Holger Knaack from the Rotary Club of Herzogtum Lauenburg-Molln, which is north of Hamburg in Germany has chosen “Rotary Opens Opportunities”, ROO for short as his theme for 2020-21. Holger is encouraging us to seize the many opportunities Rotary offers to enrich our lives and the communities we serve. He reminds us that Rotary isn’t just a Club for people to join, but rather an invitation to endless opportunities. He emphasises that Rotary creates pathways, for members to improve their lives and the lives of those they help, through service projects. Everything we as Rotarians do opens another opportunity for someone, somewhere. From my personal point of view, all pretty true and again, another brilliant theme, after “Rotary Connects the World”. Those of you with sharp eyes will have noticed that this years Rotary logo involves opening doors which goes with the theme and the Rotary colours of yellow and blue. The extra colour red is new and symbolises the inclusion of Rotaract into Rotary International.

So for the coming year we will embrace the focus outlined by DG Phil at the virtual District Assembly. This will include: embracing new opportunities from COVID-19 by exploring new ways to undertake out Rotary activities; looking after member welfare and maintaining fellowship and friendship; using technology to meet more flexibly and including a greater range of participants; and to socialise and have fun. And of course we hope to be able to get back to our core activities of doing good in our community and supporting service projects as soon as we are able.

One very significant milestone will be celebrated during this coming Rotary year – the Melbourne Rotary Club was chartered on 21 April 1921 so that next year Rotary will be 100 years in Australia. It is interesting to note that the very first Rotary service activity in Australia was a picnic when 200 children from the Queensberry Street State School were taken in members’ cars to Carrum. Clearly Youth activities have been part of Rotary from the very beginning. We as a Club will need to reflect on a suitable project to make our mark on history.

I would like to thank the guests who joined our Changeover via Zoom, and especially DG Phil for taking the time to join our meeting. Thank you to John Aitken who is taking on the role of President-elect for the coming year, and of course all the incoming Directors. Finally thank you to friends and helpers for advice and help in setting up the community Centre for the night and Nicole Stewart and her team for putting on such a fine spread for our Changeover dinner.

I look forward to seeing you all again soon and embarking on our new Rotary year.