PRESIDENT’S REPORT

The Club Assembly last week was an excellent finale to the Committee planning that had begun several weeks ago. Each Director presented an exciting array of projects for the coming year; hopefully COVID-19 won’t impede practical outcomes for too long.

The discussion around future meetings was very constructive. We will continue to meet in person, total lockdown willing, in either Rotary House with take-away meals for sustenance, or at the Creekside if possible. Time will tell but, no matter what, we must not become complacent; and we must obey the rules, not only for our own safety but also because it is very important that we are seen to be maintaining the correct procedures. I hope we won’t be forced back to total Zoom meetings in the event of a total State lockdown although allowing members (and guests) to join our meetings by Zoom has been surprisingly successful.

Unfortunately I missed most of the official online launch of the Rotary Centenary celebrations by the Governor General and Mrs Hurley on Friday 10 July (another Zoom Board meeting!). The key project in Rotary’s R100 Centenary year in Australia, “Give Every Child a Future”, will focus on stopping the one in 16 children who die in Pacific nations before the age of five.

Our next meeting will be a Zoom presentation next Friday evening by Peter Allen from the Rotary Club of Camberwell to the Horsham Rotary Clubs. He will be talking about ROMP (Rotary Outreach Myeloma Program), a serious blood cancer. I think we should support this very worthwhile project - it has already been designated a Centenary of Rotary in Australia project. A Zoom connection will be coming your way soon.

Yours in Rotary,
Tony
## Duties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Friday 17th July 2020</th>
<th>Wednesday 22nd July 2020</th>
<th>Wednesday 29th July 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Venue</strong></td>
<td>Home</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rotary House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time</strong></td>
<td>6:40-7:15pm</td>
<td>6-6:30pm</td>
<td>6:00pm -6:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reception/Visitors</strong></td>
<td>Zoom meeting with Horsham East RC (note that it’s a Friday)</td>
<td>BYO Fellowship dinner Rotary House</td>
<td>J. Daniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chairman</strong></td>
<td>J. Daniel</td>
<td>C. Hewitt</td>
<td>J. Liersch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Invocation</strong></td>
<td>I. Penny</td>
<td>M. Morcom</td>
<td>I. Penny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Heads &amp; Tails</strong></td>
<td>ROMP Rotary Outreach Myeloma Program</td>
<td>7:30pm BOARD MEETING Rotary House</td>
<td>David Ward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Establishing the Horsham Times newspaper K. Wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vote of Thanks</strong></td>
<td>Inductions : Birthdays : Anniversaries :</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Thank you Sue and Helen.

Once again Sue and Helen have produced an excellent Annual Report for our club. Many hours go into producing such a high quality booklet. As always it’s interesting to read about the previous year’s highlights and all the projects we’ve been involved in.

**CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU.**

---

### ROTARY SUBS DUE......

This week you should have received an email requesting payment of your Rotary Subs for the 2020-21 rotary year, plus an account for any outstanding ‘fines’ from previous zoom meeting. Please help treasurer Chris by finalising these accounts ASAP.
We tried our BYO meal format on Wednesday and by all accounts it seemed to go well. As Sergeant Ian P said “I hope you enjoyed your meal, ‘cos if you didn’t it’s your own fault”. These photos say it all….YUM!

**100% ATTENDANCE**

To cap off a tasty meal Pres. Tony produced a bottle of port. Why, you might ask? It’s a RCW tradition for the President to shout the members glasses of port when we have **100% attendance** at a meeting. So although it didn’t really seem like it, the Changeover night boasted full attendance-half by physical presence and the rest via online connection. A memorable achievement - well done to all members and thanks Tony.

**BEN BENTLEY- 40 YEARS IN ROTARY**

A highlight of the night was when President Tony presented Ben Bentley with a plaque to recognise **Ben’s 40 years of service in Rotary**.

Ben’s significant contribution includes:

- President of the Club twice, in 1987/88 and 2006/07
- Held every Director position and Community Director four times.
- District Governor Representative in 1988/89
- Became a Paul Harris Fellow in 2002 and a Paul Harris Society member in 2016. Presented with his 6th Paul Harris Society sapphires, representing 6 x $1000 annual donations to TRF.
- Membership Development Committee four times.
- Life Member of F.A.I.M. (Fourth Avenue in Motion), which is better known now as R.A.W.C.S. (Rotary Australia World Community Service) that involves projects internationally.
- An advocate for Rotary Health Research and Donate Life (Organ Donation)
- A member of the Group Study Exchange program from 1996 to 1999.
- Hosted 12 exchange students and counsellor to 5 of our outbound exchange students.
- Ben generously donated Rotary House to the Club in 2016 which created new projects for the club like Rotary Auctions and provides a place to meet for larger Fellowship nights such as the Annual Footy Night and now our regular meetings. He assists the club in many ways by donating his shearing shed, purchasing banners and recently organising shelters at Rotary Park. Thank you Ben for your Service to Rotary.

In response Ben highlighted some observations and experiences over the years. Over 40 years Rotary has changed, but it remains very important in his life. Rotarian Ben has an amazing attendance record, missing just 5 meeting in 40 years. The international aspect of Rotary has enabled many opportunities for Ben; he has enjoyed attending ‘make up’ meetings around the world, and, with Joan, has hosted 12 exchange students. “Through Rotary you meet people from around the world. Rotary gives you an automatic connection.” concluded Ben.
Committee Reports

Each committee met on Wednesday to finalise an outline of their projects for the coming Rotary year and their summaries are included here. Thanks to those members who connected to the meeting via Zoom.

YOUTH

John Tonkin (Director), Tim Hewitt, Tony Gregson, Chris Gunn.

Committee discussion reinforced the need to maintain some existing - and ongoing - programs; whilst also adding new potential projects with a specifically local focus.

**Defying the Drift** (September at Longerenong) This year we had the first participant for many years and are keen to have a follow-up. Will contact Nicole Stewart for possible candidates. Last year’s attendee Kyle Walder happy to act as an ‘on the ground’ contact for interested candidates.

Again, we seek and support RYPEN and RYLA participants.

The 2020 RYLA program has been rolled over to **April 11-16, 2021** because of the Corona virus. Have contacted all three candidates to reiterate our support and they still intend to go. **RYPEN** has been rolled-over to 2021 and we await information on this. (we know there are great students locally of middle years secondary school age who would really benefit from RYPEN at a key point in decision-making for their futures, so this will be a key focus for us)

Of course, we will continue our support for the **Primary School Breakfast program**. Currently in COVID 19 recess, we await confirmation of the protocols for shared facilities in the current **Return to School Operations Guide** from Principal Ben Tait. This won’t happen ‘till into Term 3 at least.

The 2020 **Science and Engineering Challenge** at Longerenong was a great success this year. We have committed our continuing involvement and the Secondary College is keen to maintain their support in February 2021. We will approach the organisers to see if one of the activities (not the bridge building Tony!) can be run at a club meeting so members get a practical taste of this great program.

Continuing support for two $250 awards on the Secondary College’s Presentation Night: The **VCAL Scholarship** and **VCE Scholarship**.

Support for **Rotaract** over the year. A member of the youth committee will attend each Rotaract meeting starting with the coming July 16 meeting.

**For Further Consideration:**

Possibility of Rotary’s continuing support for local swimming star **Lily Eldridge**. We have approached Craig Somers and she is happy to speak to the club about her challenges during COVID 19 at a time when she is ready.

Chris suggested we consider supporting a local sporting team on an ongoing basis and Wendy proposed we think about an inter-club youth project with Wyndham Rotary Club, in the wake of the connection with the club with our Breakfast program having fallen away.
INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Kelsea Wall (Director), Helen Peters (2IC), Chris Hewitt, Calvin Muller

I’m really excited to get going for this year. The International Service committee and I have discussed some really great opportunities for the club. Given the current pandemic, and the challenges Australia has been facing during 2020, we felt it necessary to focus on supporting our home as it also hard to assist internationally at the moment.

We, however, have still discussed some fantastic ideas involving international and cultural communities within Victoria and Australia. Chris H. has a fantastic connection with the Multicultural Commissioner for Victoria, Viv Nguyen and we will be reaching out to her. We hope to identify some key areas that we can focus on and aid. I will also email Margaret Wellington, the Rotary President for Nhill, in hopes that we can connect with one of their members, Siam, who gave a great speech to our Rotary Club a couple of years back about her goals and plans to assist the Karen community in our local areas. Ideally, we would like to catch up with her on how those plans went and if there are any areas of need that we can assist in. We are still aiming to donate an Aquabox. We will be holding a German-themed international night this year, and will be reaching out to the German communities or German heritage communities to guest speak for the night. Ideally, we would like to hold this during International week. We still fully intend to have some form of communication with Simon to present to the club. I am really hoping to organise a Zoom meeting with him to answer a few questions, but if this can’t be worked out, alternatively, I will present a video to the club and to Simon using video he has supplied as well as some from us. Another discussion has been a collaborative project with youth regarding the river Nile school supporting refugee and asylum seeker school aged children and young women. Lastly, we have also discussed two other options to look into should our other plans fall through. These are in Angel Flights and possibly Homeless Housing projects being set up in city areas.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

David Drage (Peter Martin 2IC), Ian Penny, Megan Watts, Ben Bentley, Wendy Hewitt.

The coming 12 months are shaping up to be a very difficult period for communities across the country. It also makes planning service projects difficult as we don’t know what we will be allowed to do or what society will require from us. We will aim to be ready to do whatever we can when and if we are allowed to do so.

Hopefully all the usual activities will be able to be performed. Highway clean-up and Rotary Park maintenance will occur, our usual Warracknabeal Show activities will happen if the show happens, and our Australia Day Event will continue if allowed. The catering unit is ready to roll if and when we are called upon to provide cooking for an event.

We intend to oversee the construction of the dog run at Rotary Park. This started as a Rotaract project but has taken on a larger scale with an application for State Government funding being placed by the Shire on our behalf. Hopefully we are successful with this application and the project will go ahead, providing a much needed facility and project skills for our Rotaractors.

The Court House in Warracknabeal is currently being rebirthed as an arts precinct, with support from Monash Uni. There is some desire to have a shopfront in Scott Street where high tech. innovative creative arts workshops can take place under the guidance of Monash Uni. We are in discussion with the group as to whether Rotary House is a suitable venue. COVID 19 issues have stalled this, but we stand ready to be involved.

We would like to run a community get-together event early next year. A twilight cinema, possibly on Easter Sunday currently seems like a popular idea. COVID 19 rules willing, we will work towards such an event.

Within the next 12 months works should start on completing the Warracknabeal education precinct. There will likely be funding shortfalls for ancillary works around the project so we will try to stay in contact with the schools and we may identify some areas where we can assist in the completion of this great new facility for the town.

Looking forward to what will be a very disjointed year of Community Service.
VOCATIONAL SERVICE

Mandy Morcom (Director), John Aitken (2IC), Sue Watts, Rob McRae.

The vocational committee plan to keep the year on a local focus. Firstly the committee will continue the mock interviews of future school leavers.

The committee also have a vision to hold a careers expo involving the largest employers of Warracknabeal, Rural Northwest Health and Woodbine Disability Services. The expo aims to showcase the many and varied vocational opportunities available within these services. Hopefully Jessica (Ward) Taylor a young lady, born and bred in Warracknabeal will be able to give a talk on being a drone pilot in the Australian Defence Forces. Also keeping a local focus our own Rotarian and agriculturalist Rob McRae will provide an insight into his family’s beautiful Glenwillan Homestead, the history of the property and how it has hosted numerous gatherings.

After finally receiving government funding to finish the Warracknabeal Education Precinct consisting of the Warracknabeal Primary School, Secondary College and Special Development School it would be interesting to hear the thoughts from the principals of these three schools on the benefits of educational outcomes and any potential challenges they envisage from the merge. Ambulance Victoria provide a vitally important first responders role. Hopefully the team leader of the Warracknabeal Ambulance Station will showcase their role and the benefits of one day receiving much needed funding for new and improved facilities.

If anyone has any further suggestions of Vocational Service you would like to highlight can you please contact one of the committee members.

FELLOWSHIP

Bernie O’Connor (Director), Julie O’Brien, Jack Daniel, John Liersch.

As noted in the annual report 2019/2020, the Fellowship Committee sees its role as informing and contributing to the community, where possible, whilst providing some events that serve to promote a sense of camaraderie amongst Rotarians.

If ever fellowship should be promoted, this is the year. Most events play to a time of the year, but the scheduling of the main event is uncertain.

At some point in time, it is planned to hold a celebration of the end of COVID-19 restrictions. The initial thought is to organise a community-based function such as a meal at the community centre followed by a showing of The Dry on the football club’s big screen. I have raised this matter informally with the Shire and they are keen to contribute to such a function. The Community Service committee also independently raised the possibility of a similar event. This presents an opportunity to plan co-operatively in the public interest.

We don’t know when, but the popular Elli Martha Curry Night will be organised. Hopefully, restrictions will be eased to allow a greater number as suggested by our President, Tony Gregson. Hopefully, also, Rural Northwest Health will allow us to use their facilities and even shift the event into their largest function room. As usual, Noel and Laura Maslamoney from Dadswells Bridge will be our hosts. An entertaining tale from Noel should be expected and live music is proposed.

The committee is planning a possible BBQ tea at the site of the proposed co-location of the Warracknabeal Secondary College, Warracknabeal Primary School and the Warracknabeal Special School. We propose to hear the plans of each Principal that will now come to fruition following the announcement of the large grant. Tim Hewitt has linked such the event to Education Week in September.

Later in September, the committee will conduct the annual Football Night, most likely at Rotary House. Funds raised will be directed at assisting the Warrack Warriors at the Tri State Games, when they are next held.

December will of course be the Christmas Party. There is no particular plan at this stage given the uncertainty of numbers and venues.

January 2021 will mark the return of Rotary following the holidays. Hopefully, we will be able to conduct breakfast at Pharmacino.
This week’s meeting
Friday 17th July 6:40pm

Proposed Zoom Presentation by Peter Allen from Rotary Club Of Camberwell regarding the Centenary Project called Rotary OutReach Myeloma Project

The following message is from Horsham PP Don Perry to support their Zoom meeting on Friday 17th of July.

RC Horsham and Horsham East have been cooperating with RC Camberwell to develop a Myeloma Support group in Horsham. Myeloma is a blood cancer which has no known cure. The support group has been well assisted by Wimmera Cancer Centre and one face to face meeting was held prior to Covid-19 restrictions.

Peter Allen will make a zoom presentation to the Rotary Club of Horsham during our weekly meeting to be held on 17th July 2020. He will join us around 6.40pm for about 20 to 30 minutes.

The reason I am sending you this email is to invite you and your members to join the evening from the comfort of your own home using the convenience of technology and Zoom. Our club has been meeting weekly by zoom for a number of weeks as have Warracknabeal. Currently we are meeting face to face at Glen Logan Restaurant under the current guidelines for 20 people maximum.

It would be great if we could all get together to support and encourage the pursuit of this very worthwhile endeavour by RC Camberwell and the Myeloma Foundation.

Peter will tell us where the project is up to and plans for expansion and consolidation.

On Friday 10 July the GG His Excellency David Hurley and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley officially launched Rotary’s centenary year in Australia. This coming meeting for us is an opportunity to engage with a very worthwhile Centenary project.

Please email Sue Watts with your intention if you choose to attend and a link will be forwarded when received.

---

District 9780 Goals for 2020-21

1. Focus on Member Welfare and Friendship – help ourselves before we focus on others
2. Next focus is Our Communities – reach out to find what’s needed
3. Take the opportunity to reset your Club goals and projects – involve all members
4. Remember the “Big R” of Rotary by partnering with other Clubs locally and across the District. Together we can do more!
5. Develop a relationship with another Club in the District, outside your Group
   - Invite them to your Zoom Meetings
   - Arrange a weekend visit
   - Mutually support each other through functions, activities and joint projects
6. Financially support The Rotary Foundation through Club and Personal Giving

Current levels of contribution are severely impacting future District Grant and Scholarship funding.