PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Much of the last Board meeting was taken up with discussion of COVID-19 and how it affects our club. Tim Rose from the Yarriambiack Shire office has been very helpful and constructive in advising us on what is required for a Rotary meeting, both with and without food. As far as I can tell the club is doing things correctly although some fine tuning will be included in each weekly bulletin.

One outcome from our Zoom meeting last week with the Rotary clubs of Horsham and Camberwell on the ROMP is that our Board is now calling for a volunteer to be a member of the Horsham ROMP Action committee to establish Horsham as a ROMP hub to provide support for myeloma patients in western Victoria.

The Board also decided to include our Dog Park development as our contribution to the R100 program.

With the increasing uncertainty with COVID-19, now even in regional Victoria, we should reactivate our pastoral service to our Honorary Rotarians and others; I think the need is still there.

Next week I hope we can support our local businesses by having our meeting at The Creekside. However, as I have said before, please be alert to short notice changes in program and venue. For those who just can’t make it, you could join by zoom. Please see the invitation further in the bulletin.

Stay safe every-one.

Yours in Rotary, Tony.

This week’s meeting: We will be returning to The Creekside Hotel for our dinner meeting. It’s great to be able to support local businesses in this tough retail environment.

As you know, the hotel has Covid 19 requirements to ensure the safety of both patrons and their staff. On arrival could you please be seated, then table service will follow.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DUTIES</th>
<th>Wednesday 29th July 2020</th>
<th>Wednesday 5th August 2020</th>
<th>Wednesday 12th August 2020</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>Creekside Hotel</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>6:00pm -6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reception/Visitors</td>
<td>J. Daniel</td>
<td>D. Drage</td>
<td>C. Gunn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>C. Hewitt</td>
<td>T. Hewitt</td>
<td>M. Morcom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Invocation</td>
<td>J. Liersch</td>
<td>P. Martin</td>
<td>R. McRae</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heads &amp; Tails</td>
<td>M. Morcom</td>
<td>J. O’Brien</td>
<td>B. O’Connor</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 min talk ‘Why I joined Rotary... My Rotary highlight”</td>
<td>I. Penny</td>
<td>H. Peters</td>
<td>J. Tonkin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>David Ward</td>
<td>Rob McRae</td>
<td>Jessica Taylor (Ward)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Establishing the Horsham Times newspaper</td>
<td>Maiden speech/job talk</td>
<td>My story</td>
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<td>W’beal&gt;Army&gt;W’beal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vote of Thanks</td>
<td>K. Wall</td>
<td>M. Watts</td>
<td>S. Watts</td>
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</tbody>
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Inductions : Wendy Hewitt 27/7/2011 (9 years)
Birthdays :
Anniversaries :

Covid-Safe Instructions for our meetings

With Covid 19 restrictions in place, we have been able to run club meetings with a maximum of 20 participants present. For those who cannot attend our face to face meetings we will endeavour to connect via zoom where possible. Please contact Tony if you are interested.

**PLEASE do not attend the meeting if you are unwell and experiencing symptoms such as a cough, sore throat, fatigue or shortness of breath.**

**Do not attend the meeting if, in the last 14 days, you have been unwell or had close contact with a known or suspected case of Covid-19.**
Wednesday July 22 2020

RCW Board meeting notes

*Face to Face meeting restrictions. If any member has been to Melbourne or in contact with a person from Melbourne within the last 14 days, has been overseas or in contact with someone who has been overseas in the last 14 days, has a runny nose, a cough, a temperature, a headache, nausea, diarrhoea, cold or flu symptoms, or is generally unwell please do not attend the Rotary meeting and isolate for at least 14 days and seek medical advice from your GP.

For every Rotary meeting members must apologise to the Treasurer Chris Gunn by Tuesday 12 noon. This is to ensure meeting attendance does not exceed the 20 person restriction on the Club. If necessary an attendance roster will be issued and members can also Zoom into meetings.

Yarriambiack Shire Health Officer Tim Rose has been contacted regarding cleaning instructions for meeting and dining at Rotary House during COVID-19.

Myeloma Project ROMP member Peter Allen has approached President Tony to see if there is any Warracknabeal member that would like to be on the committee. If so please see Tony.

Treasurer is gaining further information on contactless payments "Square" and will report at next Board meeting.

Funds for WSC organisation "Elevate" to be f/u with Casey Phelan by PE John A.

Constitution to be sent out to members with 21 days notice to be adopted. Bylaws are currently being adapted.

Board Minutes will be placed on Clubrunner in Members area under Organisation/Documents for all members to peruse, eventually all Policies of the Club will be filed here also.

Joining us by Zoom?

Tony Gregson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Zoom Rotary meeting @ Creekside
Time: Jul 29, 2020 06:15 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86440311339

Meeting ID: 864 4031 1339
Meeting ID: 864 4031 1339
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/keje8KjU8Y
REPORTS

Community Service (David Drage)

I will be speaking to Yarriambiack Shire next week about the Governments COVID 19 Community Activation and Social Isolation initiative. There may be scope for us to apply for some funds to deliver a project to assist vulnerable people who may be suffering hardship as a result of COVID 19. We have yet to hear whether the Club has been successful in receiving funding for the dog run at Rotary Park.

The club has been contacted by the Machinery Museum Committee asking for a letter of support for their proposed display area extension. It was agreed at the board meeting to offer a letter of support.

Rotary Foundation (Sue Watts)

As Rotarians, we know that the Foundation is our choice of charity and are confident in the knowledge that what funds we donate will be used in either a Humanitarian project or returned to our District for District Grants for our own Community projects. This year, as we have some new members, my intention is again going back to basics educating the club on what is Foundation and encouraging personal donations to become EREY (Every Rotarian Every Year) or Centurions within our club. We are very lucky to already have two Paul Harris Society members with this increasing to three this Rotary year.

Youth (John Tonkin)

With the necessary overlay of COVID 19 on everything...

- **RYLA** now rescheduled for **April 11-16, 2021**. Our three candidates **Issy Niven, Marc Pendlebury** and **Harry Butcher** have all indicated they will attend. Funding has been rolled over.
- **Primary School Breakfast Program** still in COVID 19 recess. Will remain so whilst decisions on Country Schooling protocols still up in the air.
- A member of the Youth Committee will attend monthly **Rotaract** meetings this year. I attended last Thursday’s Zoom meeting chaired by President **Megan Watts**.
- Finally, Congratulations to **Megan** on her appointment as **Rotary RYPEN District Chairman**. She will bring a youthful enthusiasm and sense of commitment to the role!

**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.
Rotaract Meeting # 1: Thursday, July 16 2020

The Rotary Youth Committee of John Tonkin (Director), Tony Gregson, Chris Gunn and Tim Hewitt will attend Rotaract meetings in rotation throughout the 2020-21 Year. The report below is a snapshot of the first Rotaract (Zoom) meeting from John Tonkin and was included in the minutes of this Rotaract meeting.

Congratulations to Rotaract office bearers:

- Immediate Past President Sam Schulz for her leadership and energy in the 2019-20 Rotaract year; the recent report in the Warrack Herald made it clear it was a busy and productive one.
- 2020-2021 President (and Media Director) Megan Watts. Tonight’s Zoom meeting was run smoothly yet decisively; it was clear you had been in the chair before Megan and that the club will be in capable hands.
- Vice-President Colleen Tabone, Secretary Lainee Heeps, Continuing Treasurer Marc Pendlebury and Social director Darrien Friend. All the best for success in these important club roles.

The Rotary Club is pleased that our three RYLA candidates (Rotaractors Izzy Niven and Marc Pendlebury and local student Harry Butcher) will be attending the rescheduled 2020 RYLA camp on April 11-16, 2021.

Some observations: Club to be looking over Rotaract By-Laws and the Constitution, Membership to be a main focus for the year, Community and Youth to be joined into a shared Directorship. Club details online have been updated.

Main issue for next meeting: Given that each Rotaract club can now independently decide on the upper age limit for membership - currently 30 years - initial consideration of the age limits for membership of the Warracknabeal Rotaract Club to be discussed based on the demographic the club wishes to reflect.

Congratulations to you Megan on your appointment as Rotary RYPEN District Chairman. You will bring a youthful enthusiasm and sense of commitment to the role!

Next meeting: Thursday August 6
John Tonkin , Rotary Youth Director
The story of LENNIE AND GINGER MICK

It’s 1932 and Australia is in the grip of the Great Depression.

One in three workers are unemployed. Decrepid shanty towns hug the outskirts of the big cities. A scrawny rabbit caught in a trap will feed a family for a week. Country roads are filled with broken men walking from one farmhouse to another seeking menial jobs and food.

On the outskirts of the South Gippsland town of Leongatha, an injured farmer lies in bed unable to walk – or work. World War I hero Captain Leo Tennyson Gwyther is in hospital with a broken leg and the family farm is in danger of falling into ruins. Up steps his son, nine-year-old Lennie. With the help of his pony Ginger Mick, Lennie ploughs the farm’s 24 paddocks and keeps the place running until his father can get back on his feet.

How to reward him? Lennie has been obsessively following one of the biggest engineering feats of the era – the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. He wants to attend its opening. With great reluctance, his parents agree he can go. So Lennie saddles up Ginger Mick, packs a toothbrush, pyjamas, spare clothes and a water bottle into a sack, and begins the 1000+ kilometer (600+ miles) trek to Sydney. Alone. That’s right. A nine year old boy riding a pony from the deep south of Victoria to the biggest and roughest city in the nation.

Told you it was a different era. No social media. No mobile phones. But even then it doesn’t take long before word begins to spread about a boy, his horse and their epic trek. The entire populations of small country towns gather on their outskirts to welcome his arrival. He survives bushfires, is attacked by a “vagabond” and endures rain and cold, biting winds. When he reaches Canberra he is welcomed by Prime Minister Joseph Lyons, who invites him into Parliament House for tea. When he finally arrives in Sydney, more than 10,000 people line the streets to greet him. He is besieged by autograph hunters. He becomes a key part of the official parade at the bridge’s opening. He and Ginger Mick are invited to make a starring appearance at the Royal Show. Even Donald Bradman, the biggest celebrity of the Depression era, requests a meeting and gives him a signed cricket bat. A letter writer to The Sydney Morning Herald at the time gushes that “just such an example as provided by a child of nine summers, Lennie Gwyther was, and is, needed to raise the spirit of our people and to fire our youth and others to do things – not to talk only.

“The sturdy pioneer spirit is not dead ... let it be remembered that this little lad, when his father was in hospital, cultivated the farm – a mere child.” When Lennie leaves Sydney for home a month later, he has become one of the most famous figures in a country craving uplifting news. Large crowds wave handkerchiefs. Women weep and shout “goodbye”. According to The Sun newspaper, “Lennie, being a casual Australian, swung into the saddle and called ‘Toodleloo!’”. He finally arrives home to a tumultuous reaction in Leongatha. He returns to school and soon life for Lennie – and the country – returns to normal.

These days you can find a bronze statue in Leongatha commemorating Lennie and Ginger Mick. But Australia has largely forgotten his remarkable feat – and how he inspired a struggling nation. Never taught about him in school? Never heard of him before? Spread the word.

We need to remember – and celebrate – Lennie Gwyther and his courageous journey. It’s a great story. God knows we need these stories now, more than ever.

(Ed. All contributions to the bulletin are really appreciated. Thanks to Ian P. for this inspirational and sobering story.)