PRESIDENT’S REPORT

I am sorry that we had to return to a Zoom meeting last Wednesday but we had no option, and probably this will be the same, at least for the next few weeks, and quite likely for a while yet. Never-the-less our guest speaker, local Warracknabeal Herald owner and publisher, David Ward was excellent. He described the deep connections he and his family have with independent newspapers in the Wimmera, and particularly with Warracknabeal and Horsham over many years. He described the very recent establishment of the Horsham Times to fill a gap vacated by the large corporate media. We salute you David for expanding your reach into larger scale printing, and to the Horsham Times, satisfying a clear need in the community. It was quite inspirational to hear how a family business has thrived in these difficult and uncertain times.

Thank you Helen Peters for agreeing to be our representative on the Horsham ROMP action committee; this will help cement Horsham as a western Victorian hub for those suffering from myeloma.

And congratulations to Ben and Joan Bentley for reaching the very significant milestone of 65 years of marriage. We salute you both for this wonderful achievement.

Finally I am very pleased that we are again reaching out to others, including our Honorary Rotarians. One of the most significant contributions to good mental health is kindness so let’s be kind to each other and work at staying safe.

Next week will again be a Zoom meeting with Rob McRae our guest speaker.

Yours in Rotary,

Tony
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DUTIES</th>
<th>Wednesday 5th August 2020</th>
<th>Wednesday 12th August 2020</th>
<th>Wednesday 19th August 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>Zoom at home</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<td>Time</td>
<td>7:15pm</td>
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<td>Reception/Visitors</td>
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<td>Fellowship meal ?</td>
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<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Tim Hewitt</td>
<td>M. Morcom</td>
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<td>Invocation</td>
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<td>7pm Board meeting</td>
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<td>Heads &amp; Tails</td>
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<td>Format TBC</td>
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<td>2 min talk ‘Why I joined Rotary... My Rotary highlight”</td>
<td>Helen Peters</td>
<td>J. Tonkin</td>
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<td>Program</td>
<td>Rob McRae</td>
<td>Jessica Taylor (Ward)</td>
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<td>Maiden speech/job talk</td>
<td>My story</td>
<td>W’beal&gt;Army&gt;W’beal</td>
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<td>Vote of Thanks</td>
<td>M. Watts</td>
<td>S. Watts</td>
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**Next meeting:**

Tony Gregson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Rotary weekly Zoom Meeting  
Time: Aug 5, 2020 07:00 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Join Zoom Meeting  
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84892231117

Meeting ID: 848 9223 1117  
Meeting ID: 848 9223 1117  
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdiqBU55NI
Wednesday 29th July 2020

David Ward - Establishing The Horsham Times

“What would we do without a local paper?” This was the opening challenge from David Ward as he began his presentation to Rotarians on Wednesday night.

At a time when so many familiar aspects of our life are disappearing or changing, this question was a timely reminder to be so grateful for the things we have. And to be aware of the initiatives, passion and hard work of locals to help sustain, even improve, our local services: initiatives like David and his family taking on the publication of a new local paper, The Horsham Times, to fill the void when The Wimmera Mail Times suddenly stopped operation in April. The Ward family has a long and proud history in the newspaper business, now with the fifth generation involved in the local media. They have now expanded their reach and prepared for the future.

David explained that despite this digital era of social media and instant access to information there is still a great deal of demand for a local paper. It’s about providing relevant, accurate news for the local population, information that isn’t always provided on Facebook or in the regional papers controlled by the big media corporations. When the coronavirus outbreak hit, media giant ACM stopped publishing many regional mastheads like the Mail Times. David discussed options with his family and the decision was made to re-establish The Horsham Times. As an independent operator there were huge logistical challenges - staff, printing, offices, distribution, on-line platforms and so on.

They are now in their second month of publication with a 40 page Friday weekly edition. The first run saw 50,000 copies distributed throughout the Wimmera, Mallee and Central Victoria regions. Newsagents welcomed their paper with welcome arms and response from the public has been very positive.

David spoke of his family’s involvement in local media since the 1890s, firstly in Creswick then onto Horsham in the 1930s when the first Horsham Times was published. Due to ill health the paper was sold to the Murdoch media empire and became Wimmera Mail Times. In the 1950s the family bought shares in the Warracknabeal Herald and in 1967 moved to Warracknabeal to run the paper. Some may remember that 1967 was one of the worst droughts ever in the region, so not an ideal time to set up a business. However, over time the Ward family established a successful and respected business. After printing the Herald at the Mail Times for 18 years, the Wards finally bought their own printing press. David reflected on this purchase and regarded this move as a telling moment for their business, finally becoming truly independent. Now operating a state of the art digital colour printer, employing 14 people, and also managing an online presence (10% of subscribers), business continues to evolve. The original Horsham Times plaque has been restored and will soon take pride of place at the new Horsham office.

Is there a future for our community and local papers? David is confident that regional living is becoming more attractive, and local newspapers are part of that lifestyle. The big media conglomerates have closed down and amalgamated regional papers, have less regional content and are moving towards more general on line content. They are losing regional readership to the independent operators. As independent media operators we hope to be providing local and relevant news to our region for years to come.

Past President Chris Hewitt thanked David for sharing the journey of the Ward family in the local newspaper scene, and congratulated his family on establishing The Horsham Times. We are lucky to have family run local papers that have the support and respect of the communities it serves, and grateful that the Ward family is so positive about the future of our community.
**Wednesday 29th July 2020**

Seventeen RCW Rotarians and Steve Holmes from RC Horsham East logged into the zoom meeting.

Guest speaker, David Ward, gave a most interesting talk about his family’s journey in the local media scene over five generations, culminating with the recent establishment of The Horsham Times.

Steve Holmes performed his first official task in his new role as our Assistant Governor when he made a virtual presentation to Tony Gregson and Ben Bentley.

Steve mentioned the range of important aid projects undertaken by TRF around the world, with the eradication of polio from the face of the earth being the signature program.

Both Ben and Tony have made significant annual donations to The Rotary Foundation for many years, and this has been recognised by the Paul Harris Society. Ben received his 5th and 6th sapphire and first ruby, Tony received his fourth sapphire.

In response Tony reminded us that The Rotary Foundation is one of the most respected and efficient aid organisations in the world. As well as undertaking very worthwhile projects, over 90% of TRF funds go directly to the people in need, not to administration costs.

*Find out more about the PHS in the attachment with the bulletin.*

**Coming Weeks**

We will be returning to a **zoom** format.

Two minute talks and Induction anniversaries will again be included in the bulletin, so could you please send your personal reflections to the bulletin address, by the date listed.

- **5 Aug:** Two min talk - Helen Peters  
  no induction anniversaries

- **12 Aug:** Two min talk - John Tonkin  
  no induction anniversaries

- **22 Aug:** Two min talk - Ian Penny  
  no induction anniversaries
From the archives.....

An excerpt from The Weekly Times (Wed 2 Apr 1947)

Corriedale Stud at Warracknabeal

With the backing of Rotary and the Warracknabeal Municipal Council, members of the Bangerang Young Farmers Club conducted another successful field day under the direction of their club leader, Mr. C. Gotch.

So large was the attendance that an adjournment had to be made to the public hall after an inspection of the work and the charts and aids to learning in this well-appointed school.

The project here is Corriedale stud, of which the members are justly proud. That the work might be carried out correctly, a stud master (Mr. L. Addinsall) has been appointed and everything is done under his supervision.

At the club meeting led by the President Pat Arnold, a credit balance of £1/7/10½ was revealed.

Many interesting talks were given by the Young Farmers, Trouble with flies being the chief topic of discussion. The talks were: - “Blowflies” - Coral Koschitzke, “Blowfly Strike” - Errol Koschitzke, “Treatment of a Strike” - Charles Pietsch, “Dipping of Sheep” - Edna Hausler, “Age of Sheep” - Dulcie Pietsch. All these talks were illustrated with drawings.


Not only did Mr. H. Sullivan extend congratulations and good wishes from the Warracknabeal Rotary Club, of which he is president, but he gave a most interesting address on “The Bee”. He illustrated this with bees in boxes, honey and combs.

Ed. Good to see a good representation from the Koschitzke family- no flies on them! I’m sure the Fletchers and Hewitts were there too.

Mmmmm, what do I put in this space?

For those who know me you’re not surprised that I thought a LIST might be good.

So here’s a little check list just for you....

◊ Copy all Rotarian phone numbers into my phone contacts.
◊ Download the ClubRunner app and explore what it can do.
◊ Check out rotary.org and learn about the amazing array of resources, information and inspiring content.
◊ Get in touch with another Rotarian, an Honorary Rotarian or Rotaractor. Keep connected and spread some smiles.
◊ Thank those at the front line in service industries that keep our community safe and operating effectively during Covid 19 restrictions. (Health workers, aged care workers, cleaners, teachers, those in hospitality)
◊ Get your masks ready.
◊ Do something special for a loved one.

◊ Send something to include in future bulletins, even ideas, so you don’t see another list :)...just yet.