Wed. 5th August 2020 Vol 62, Issue 6

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Again last Wednesday evening we were informed and entertained by another excellent talk by one of our own, Rob McRae. Rob described his early life at Wallup and Dimboola, his involvement with the VFF, and the Wallup Pipe Band. The history of the band was fascinating and early on was populated by the many Scottish farmers in the district, and all wearing their kilts, including Rob. The band began in 1938 and played in many parts of the state including many ANZAC marches during its 60 year reign.

Many thanks to Helen for joining the Wimmera ROMP (Rotary Clubs of Horsham, Horsham East, Nhill, and Warracknabeal) group as the local arm and Wimmera resource of the ROMP initiative. (She is now a ROMPER!). At our next Board meeting we will discuss their advice that the ROMP initiative be part of our R100 program.

At our last meeting I suggested that we meet formally with a guest speaker etc on the 1st and 4th Wednesday of the month; the Board meeting will continue to be on the 3rd Wednesday. The 2nd Wednesday would be devoted to committee meetings/brainstorming/discussion/etc on how best to respond to COVID-19. This would be predicated on me, as host, being able to master the Zoom breakout function, which I now have .....; whether it works in practice is another matter! Any 5th Wednesday in the month will be free, remembering that we now only need to meet formally twice a month.

Please monitor the Bulletin carefully and stay safe.

Yours in Rotary,

Tony

COMING DATES

WRC visit to RC Wyndham

Postponed TBC
<table>
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<tr>
<th>DUTIES</th>
<th>Wednesday 12th August 2020</th>
<th>Wednesday 19th August 2020</th>
<th>Wednesday 26th August 2020</th>
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<td>Venue</td>
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<td>Reception/Visitors</td>
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<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Mandy Morcom</td>
<td>Julie O’Brien</td>
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<td>Invocation</td>
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<td>Heads &amp; Tails</td>
<td>John Tonkin</td>
<td>Ian Penny</td>
<td>Kerrie Baxter &amp; Lucy Lavery</td>
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<td>Cambodia - A Life</td>
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<td>7 min talk ‘Why I joined</td>
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<td>Changing Experience</td>
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<td>Rotary... My Rotary highlight”</td>
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<td>Program</td>
<td>Jessica Taylor (Ward)</td>
<td>Kerrie Baxter &amp; Lucy</td>
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<td>My story</td>
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<td>W’beal&gt;Army&gt;W’beal</td>
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<td>Changing Experience</td>
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<td>Vote of Thanks</td>
<td>Sue Watts</td>
<td>John Aitken</td>
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**Next meeting - Wed. 12 August**

Tony Gregson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Rotary Zoom Meeting Wednesday 12 August
Time: Aug 12, 2020 07:15 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88932038936

Meeting ID: 889 3203 8936
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kenoq5p0RQ
Wednesday 5th August 2020

Fourteen RCW Rotarians logged into the zoom meeting, with apologies from Bernie and Peter.

REPORTS:

President Tony Gregson

Tony proposed the idea of a new structure for Rotary meetings, to maintain engagement in Rotary meetings and Rotary service. Please contact Tony if you have any comments prior to a Board decision on 19th August.

Community Service - David Drage

I am currently looking into the demand for, and logistics of, Rotary acquiring a small number of iPads to enable those who don’t have electronic devices to communicate in isolation. There are a couple of organisations in town with loan iPads, but they are all wifi only iPads which is of little use to someone with no internet connection. With extended lockdown there are a number of people in town at risk of social isolation, especially elderly and disconnected people. If you have any ideas on how we can make this work please contact me or let me know next meeting.

Youth Service - John Tonkin

WPS breakfast is on hold indefinitely.

John Aitken suggests watching the WPS website with videos of tips for remote learning. Could we add a Rotary Breakfast video clip for our Toast Tuesday?

Public Awareness - Wendy Hewitt

I will do a Herald column to let the community know that we are still meeting and active. We welcome suggestions for ways Rotary can help the community at this time.

“Keeping in touch” update:

Rotarians have been in regular contact with those in our extended Rotary family who may be isolated during the current stage 3 restrictions. A big hello to you all from your friends in Rotary.

Sheep Report:

Our ewes have finished lambing. Marking is scheduled for two weeks time, but due to restrictions, this might be confined to a job for the shepherds. Thanks Bernie, Peter, Andrew and Tim.

Wimmera ROMP (Rotary Outreach Myeloma Project) committee - Helen Peters

I have made contact with the committee and we are looking at our future direction.

Fines:

JT- A fine of merit to Matilda Drage, who texted her comments to Prime Minister Scott Morrison during a recent Q&A program on ABC TV. Proud father David will gladly pay.

JT- Sue and Megan continue to keep busy at the medical clinic, shepherding patients...looking a bit like herding cats. Well done ladies on keeping business rolling along.

WH- Pres Tony (opposite) is doing all the right things preparing for lockdown.... Like sending son, James, to town to collect vital supplies from the PO.

Thanks John Aitken for the attached clip about Life in Lockdown. Very clever.

LongestTime-QuarantineEdition4.mp4
Just as Tim Hewitt, a few weeks ago, recounted from his life story, I also feel blessed being brought up in a regional area.

Being from a farm, I attended the local Wallup Primary School and later Dimboola High School. Throughout my life I have had a strong involvement in the local Wallup community. The Wallup Hall was the hub of many social activities, including tennis, footy and cricket. Tennis was my favourite. Recalling the events over the years, those social and sporting aspects in a community were so vital. We enjoyed a strong and happy community-based lifestyle; it is difficult at times to see these things fade away as our population declined. Sadly, it’s a common thread throughout grain belt areas around the world.

In 1938, out of this small, vibrant community, the Wallup Pipe Band was born. There were many selectors with Scottish, Presbyterian heritage in the district, with family names like McIntryre, McRae, Cook, Armstrong and Fyffe. The band grew out of a local boy’s club founded by the local Presbyterian minister. Throughout its strong 60 year history the band consisted mainly of local farmers and for a long time, only males.

My family was always heavily involved, with my father, Ian, being the Pipe Major for over 35 years. I joined in 1967 as a drummer.... I couldn’t pipe like my dad! That was a drought year and I remember playing in Jeparit on a 40 degree day wearing the heavy gear, including lugging a drum from one side of the town to the other. Very challenging!

With so many Scottish families in the band, it was decided that the tartan for the band would be neutral-the Cameron tartan. We performed every ANZAC day until 2010, including many in Melbourne. I remember our preparation for the 1978 Melbourne ANZAC day parade, practising our marching on the Blue Ribbon Road. Twenty two members (our biggest ever) performed at that parade. It felt and sounded great. It was a feeling like no other. It has been such a part of my life that it still feels strange not to get a kilt on ready for ANZAC Day.

I married Janet, proudly wearing my kilt. Janet is quick to say that since then she has worn the pants!

The Wallup Pipe Band had strong pipers and leaders. We played at many community events and big occasions like the annual Dimboola Regatta were a full day out, with beers and yarns after. Some days we were a little worse for wear at the end of the day, but our clothing was always intact.

The band has been a big part of my life and it has been a wonderful feeling to contribute to community life in this unique way.

To conclude, I’ve often been asked what lies underneath the kilt......but that will go with me to the grave!

**Question time:** Rob was asked about his VFF involvement.

“Wallup has always had a local and active VFF (Victorian Farmers Federation) branch, which also incorporated the local fire brigade. I got involved as Secretary of the West Wimmera VFF branch for several years, then was a Grains Council rep. for over 20 years. In these roles I met some wonderful people from around Australia. It was a vital, interesting and rewarding experience. Current VFF President David Jochinke once introduced me at a seminar as his VFF Dad!”
The Wallup Pipe Band... Some more detail.
Two Minute Talk: Helen Peters

Why I joined Rotary and my Rotary highlight.

I joined Rotary after attending meetings with Sue for a few weeks. I thought Rotary was an elite group and was not really sure what Rotary was about. My perception was changed and my journey in Rotary began.

I have enjoyed all aspects of helping all walks of lives – locally and far off.

A highlight of my years in Rotary was a trip to Fiji with a group of Rotarians to assist with building houses for families in Koroipita. The project was under the auspice of the Rotary Club of Lautoka. Seeing the joy in the faces of recipients of the homes was very gratifying, the people really appreciate the assistance and the project becomes sustainable by the community.

Assisting in different ways to enable children to grow in confidence and self-worth is the greatest thing, to get children to partake in these activities is the hardest challenge but once they have committed and completed some of the programs, they all agree it was the best thing they have done. I really wish we had a magic way to encourage all children to have a go.

I will finish with saying it was one of my better life decisions.
Helen

Coming Weeks

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. Photos would be great too.

12 Aug: Two min talk - John Tonkin      no induction anniversaries
22 Aug: Two min talk - Ian Penny       no induction anniversaries
-ROMP web site “goes live”
Celebrating 100 years of Rotary in Australasia

You will find us at
www.romp100.org

The Rotary Outreach Myeloma Program (or “ROMP”) is a major multi-year and multi-club
Rotary initiative in collaboration with Myeloma Australia.

After some months of delay due to the effects
of the pandemic, ROMP – a certified R100
program celebrating the centenary of Rotary
in Australasia – is up and about again in a
modified form and working on line with ZOOM
and now our own website.

The modest site is changing and growing day
by day as the program unfolds and we add
new content and more Rotary Clubs.

Now we can share the ROMP journey with
everyone.

“No member of the myeloma community is
to be more than an hour from a myeloma
support group”