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“On Fire” Kevin Roberts the Olympic Dream

Kevin presented a wide-ranging talk about his sporting and running career with a number of anecdotes about famous people he had encountered.

He described the first time he saw Queen Elizabeth 2 and the Duke of Edinburgh in the 1954 and he was just amazed to be at the famous MCG.

He listed some famous athletes who had inspired him to get serious about his running and fitness. Seeing athletes training in the Olympic Village at the 1956 Olympic Games.

He recalled being amazed by the training runs of a French Athlete who he had noticed around the parks in Preston. This Runner turned out to be Alain Mimoun (pictured) who went on to win the Marathon at the 1956 Olympics.

In a brave admission he told us he was scared of being hit by the ball when playing cricket and was also scared of getting hurt playing football.



Kevin was involved in boundary umpiring Football with a club called the Olympic Hotel Football Club at their Sunday competition. These footballers were prone to have a few beers on the way to the game and getting involved in the odd altercation (fight).

But the club was eventually “disqualified” the league and he happened that they owed Kevin 5 shillings for his boundary umpiring work. Kevin went around to see Big Jack O’Keefe to ask him for the money.

Well Big Jack said “go away Kevin” or words to that effect. Well “Karma comes to everyone”.

Kevin with his mates Archie from across the road and his mate Nick went to Mr. O'Keefe's place and placed an IED in his letter box and blew his letter box up.



“I’ve never run so fast in all my life”

Later on after Kevin got married, he seriously got into running. Around this time received he his nickname “Road Runner” and ran several marathons in 1978, 79, 84 and 86. His T Shirt from the 1978 marathon was looking for a bit the worse for wear.

Kevin had several of his Olympic Dream Medals on display as well the flags they waved for the 1954 Royal Visit. He also had his first pair of runners his mum had bought for him.

He expressed his thanks to his wife Dianne who supported him throughout his running days. Editor’s note: I hope this is a reasonably accurate summary of Kevin’s thoroughly enjoyable presentation. It was a pity more members could not be there to hear it.

Tools for Fire victims in East Gippsland



Glynn Fankhauser and Kevin Roberts with a trailer load of tools and equipment which they delivered to East Gippsland on Sat 31st July. Another shipment will leave soon. Any electrical tool donations will need to be given to Kevin by August 20th to be Tested and Tagged

President's thoughts....

Plans for Next Meeting.

We are still restricted to a Maximum of 25 .

Contact Gary by phone, text or email to book your spot.

President Gary  0408149802 skinbros@bigpond.com

Craft & Produce Market – Sat 21st August

Volunteer lists were circulated. Contact Max Scott to offer your services.

Membership Committee:

Bob Vogt urged all members to be SERIOUSLY on the lookout among the community, friends and associates for prospective Rotarians. Consider inviting them to a meeting. Pauline proposed organising a talk at Sanctuary Lifestyle to promote Rotary among the residents in this complex.

Thoughts from Shekhar

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These lines are From Shekhar Mehta's article in the July issue of Rotary down Under

The biggest gift we are given Is the power to touch a life,
To change, to make a difference in the circle of life.
If we can reach out with our hand, heart, and soul,
The magic will start to happen as the wheel begins to roll.
Let's turn the wheel together So all humanity thrives,
We have the power and the magic To Serve to Change Lives.

Upcoming Events

Live4Life - BBQ's

Still waiting on the Shire and schools re-opening.

Notes for your Diary Swap Meet

Date for Swap Meet is Sunday 7th November.

Food Bank Deliveries.

The July deliveries are well underway with larger deliveries that quickly fill up vehicles. Those doing the deliveries this Friday will know already who they are.

If you would like to be included in this very worthwhile avenue of service, please inform Russ.

News from Travelling Rotarians:

Covid restrictions have impacted people in different ways.

- David and Pauline Proposch escaped the Victorian Lockdown to try out lockdown Queensland Style.
- Ray & Sue Howes are shipping their car home from Queensland rather than driving through New South Wales

Program for the next two weeks

Group Two

10 Aug Russell Ford
17 Aug

the Timber Industry 1820 to 1930 in Longwarry
to be determined

Laughter is the best medicine

