

Contact

PO Box 161 Essendon VIC 3040

Rotary
Club of Essendon

ABN 91036600532



D9800

Editor: John Odgers johnodgers@optusnet.com.au

President: David Abbey president@rce.org.au

Date: 21 July 2020 - Volume: 86 Issue 2

Zoom Lunch Meeting 21 July 2020



President David opened the meeting with an acknowledgement *to the traditional owners of the land* and welcomed members and guests to the first regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Essendon for 2020/21.

David gave a special welcome to a visiting Rotarian, Tony de Fazio, a Past President of the Box Hill Central Rotary Club.

While this was notionally a Luncheon Meeting, David dispensed with the traditional Toast and Grace given that it was a remote meeting. David is happy to hear your comments on whether the traditions remain appropriate in these changed circumstances.



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Notes from the President

Programme:

David emphasised that he has an interest in club members: what they do and what they have done, either personally, in their special area of interest, professionally, in Rotary or in their vocation. The presentation by Grant Stephenson was not really about Motor Racing, but instead, hearing about how Grant, a member of our club, finds himself racing cars around Mt Panorama.

Boris, the Club Service Committee, wants to hear from a few of you. Get in touch, either to let us know what you have been up to, or to dob someone in.

Keeping in touch:

Attendance is important for this club. With Covid-19 we don't know when we will be back in the same room. A few of our members are at risk of dropping of the radar, either because they don't like meeting remotely or do not know how to make the technology work for them.

We must make an effort to keep in touch and, if possible, look at ways all our members can stay connected.

Child Protection Policy Compliance:

This is a work in progress and extremely important. If you or your partner want to be involved, or likely to be involved, in a Youth programme you must comply with D9800 requirements. Let us know if you missed the information and would like further copies.

The year ahead:

Our next Board Meeting is next Tuesday. If you have any issues, please get in touch with David or with Steve Roe.

I have asked each of the committees to provide the board with their plans for the year and there is a lot to consider, especially when we are unsure if where the money is coming from. I admit to being excited by what this club plans to achieve in difficult circumstances.

If you have any ideas how we can make some money, please let us know!



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A new Constitution and ByLaws

Rotary International has made changes to the Rotary Club Constitution template to be used world-wide which has prompted a redrafting by D9800 of the Constitution as it applies in Victoria. We will be discussing the proposed changes at board level and the updated version will be circulated and approval sought at a special club meeting.

A few notable mentions for club members:

Boris Struk featured in the Age recently high lighting the issues Ryan and his family face with uncertain power supply. The link has been circulated.

Anne Ramsay has made food deliveries for distribution to the locked down public housing towers. Well done, Anne.

Michael Mahoney and his company Digi Ink Technologies have made supplies of hand sanitiser available for distribution by the Club once again as it appears the demand is unlikely to increase. More detail to come on this project.

Roger Leask who delivered two Royce Abbey Awards at short notice to ensure the planned presentations could occur.

Let David or John Odgers know if there are more items of interest for club members.

Short summary of year ahead year by Committee chairs

As Chair of **Club Services** Boris Struk requested that we all expand our thinking so that we can grow our speaker network and attract high impact and relevant speakers.

Peter Baker as Chair of **Vocational** informed that Behind the Badge talks are back on the agenda. Three minute talks from members on any topic will be pursued this year. Pete advised that the vocational visits concept is on hold, for obvious reasons.

Michael Portelli as Chair of the **Youth Committee** advised that it's been a difficult year due to the impacts of Covid-19. There are no NYSF applicants, since the three from St Columbans withdrew. On a more positive note, the Youth Committee is exploring the possibility of establishing beehives which might be able to be located behind the Strathmore Men's Shed.



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Shirley Kukk as Chair of the **Community Committee** advised that the committee members are: **Secretary Vera**, Cathy; Alistair, Kunal; Michael; Carmel; Lino. A small but very dedicated group of enthusiastic Rotarians. The committee has a few activities in train:

- Following on from last years hand sanitiser project, Digital Ink Technologies have donated supplies and equipment for 1,000 bottles of hand sanitiser. Twenty-one bottles will be provided to clubs in the super cluster for their use and distribution.
- A Club member has donated \$2000 for community projects – a very generous donation.
- The District Local Grant for Caroline Chisholm is still progressing – clothes have been delivered, food, thanks to IGA, will be delivered shortly.
- The club will be sponsoring the Strathmore Men's Shed Pride In Workmanship Award – Bunnings voucher \$50 and \$20 for the engraving – two members have donated the \$70.
- Fund Raising activity – on-line Bingo is being investigated as a possibility. Stayed tuned for details.
- September is Rotary Education and Literacy month – the committee has sourced four boxes of kids books to be distributed during September.

Projects on hold:

- East Gippsland Bush fire recovery function
- Police Appreciation/recognition morning tea at Moonee Valley Police Station

Projects to be discussed/progressed:

- Lift the Lid – October
- Visit to a rural rotary club

Sunil Perera spoke as Chair of the **International Committee**. Three motions have been put to the Board:

- supporting the Rotary Club of La Molina's international grant for disabled children to the amount of \$1,000AUD from the Peru account, the balance from RCE Project account.
- to apply for a District Global Grant to support basic education & literacy to Bahay Tuluyan by providing desktop computers and televisions to the value of \$6,000AUD - \$2,000 from the Bahay Tuluyan bank account, \$2,000 private donation (confirmed) and \$2,000 from the District Global Grant.
- for the supply 100 pulse oximeters (approximately \$45AUD each) total of \$4,500AUD to the Yangong General Hospital, Myanmar.





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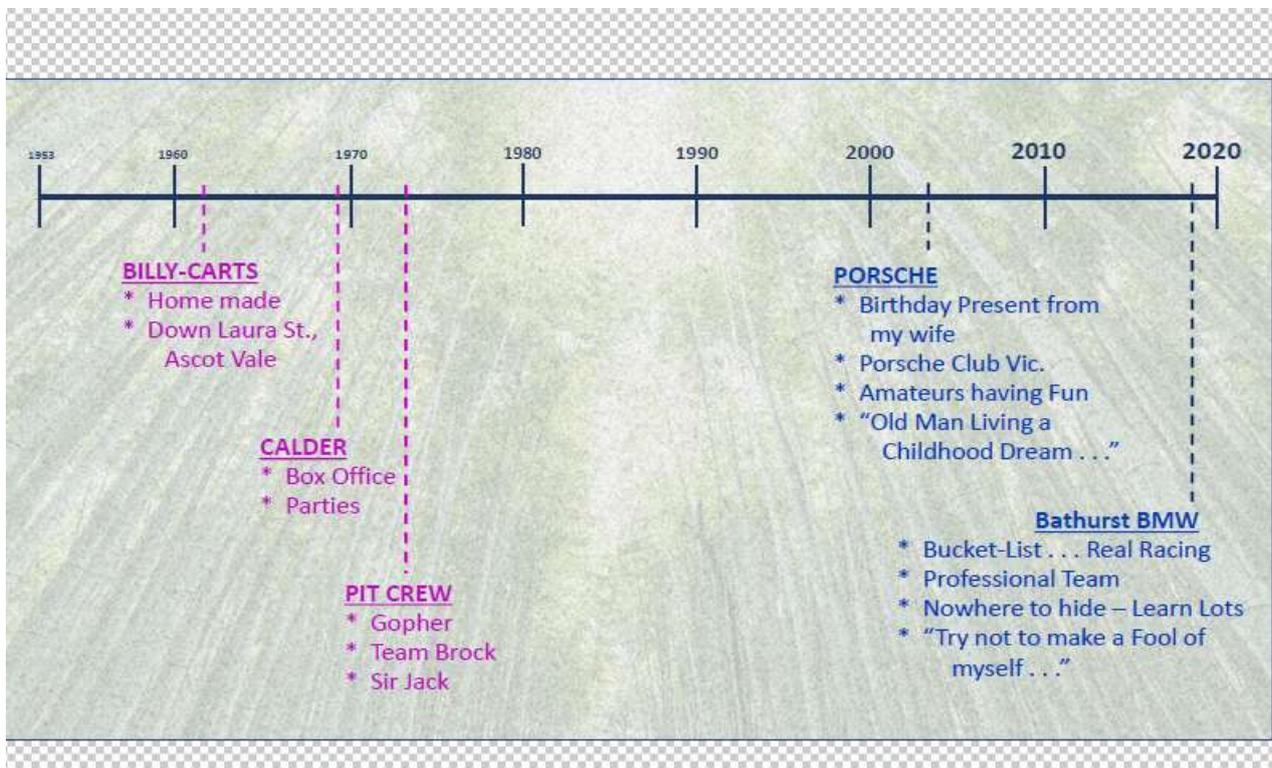
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Guest (very fast) Speaker: Grant Stephenson My Life in Motor Racing

Boris introduced our guest speaker, Grant Stephenson who for fifteen minutes entertained us with tales from the very fast motor racing race-track.

Grant started his talk with a clear admission: that he has an absolute passion for motor racing. Grant divides his motor racing experience into two halves. This passion started in the early nineteen sixties when he started hurling around Ascot Vale in home-made in billy carts.



Grant spent time at the Calder race track in the late 1960s working in the box office and partying. Moving forward to the early 1970s, Grant took up an offer from Phillip Brock, brother of the legendary Peter Brock, to work unpaid in the Brock pit crew. Grant played the role of a gopher, or errand boy, since he lacked the required mechanical and technical skills to actually work on the car. Grant's 'pay' was actually in t-shirts, but the whole experience in the early 1970s was 'sheer fun'.

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1975 enabled Grant to see a whole new perspective on professional motor racing when he became part of the Sir Jack Brabham team at Mount Panorama, Bathurst. Again, Grant was a gopher. The difference between Sir Jack's approach and that of the Brocks was stark. Sir Jack was a gentleman and a professional, and his team was highly trained and disciplined. Sir Jack had moved across from a stellar career in Formula 1 racing where he was World Champion in 1959, 1960, and 1966, into production car racing and was keen to make a mark. Unfortunately, his goal came to a bitter end when his vehicle was slammed from behind at the starting grid.

The second half of Grant's motor racing passion started when his wife bought him a Porsche as a birthday present. This car became Grant's own racing machine, complete with the label displayed prominently on the wind screen — *Jester Racing*. Grant became heavily involved in the Porsche Club of Victoria (PCV). The PCV comprises 'amateurs having fun by racing to beat their own times in sessions.' This is quite different from racing to beat other drivers. Grant describes it as 'old men living a childhood dream'.



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Not completely satisfied with PCV racing, Grant and four others asked 'why don't we try our hand at doing real (motor) racing?' The answer: Grant became part of a professional team on the back of the joint purchase of 2012 BMW. Interestingly the pit crew comes at a separate price. Grant was a gopher no more, but a driver.



Grant did a lot of driver training, and he is now much better on the road as well as the race track. His passion still challenges him, and Grant is still 1 to 2 percent off track records. Even though this sounds a minor gap, Grant assures us that closing these gaps is very challenging and at times frustrating. Ensuring that the BMW is well maintained and in peak racing condition is a constant requirement (and an expensive one).

Grant concludes with three comments. The first is that his wife deserves a lot of thanks for buying him the Porsche. Second, Grant's thirst for the sport encourages him to travel, including overseas. Finally, pursuing his hobby has given him lifelong mates, and many long lunches.

A lively question and answer session followed Grant's talk.

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President David declared the meeting closed and thanked Grant and also the production team of Steve Wojnarowski, Boris Struk, and Peter Condos.

Thank you letter from Caroline Chisholm



15th of July 2020

Vera Maljevac, Rotary Club of Essendon

Dear Vera,

Thank you for your recent donation of children clothes, nappies, sheets and mattress protectors which will help us make a difference in the lives of women, babies, children, and the family that surrounds them. The Caroline Chisholm Society is in its 51st year of operation and supports over 1,500 families across Melbourne and Shepparton each year, focusing on early prevention work and helping families to create a safe and nurturing environment for their children.

We are inspired by Caroline Chisholm (1808-77), undoubtedly an Australian heroine; an inspirational social reformer dedicated to improving the living conditions of single women and women with children arriving in the new colony. With your generous support we continue to deliver on our promise to be there for vulnerable mums and their families as they seek our family support services and new and pre-loved baby and maternity goods.

On behalf of our clients, I thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer Weber

Chief Executive Officer



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Wellness report

Jack Honson, an Honorary Member and a legend of our club advised that his wife Pearl, is unwell and currently in the Austin Hospital. A call to Jack by a few members is in order.

A member in disguise?

We all have those, 'I wish this photo wasn't being taken' moments! Thanks, Anne for sharing it with us.



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Men's Shed update

The Shed closed down on Wednesday 8 July 2020 in line with the 6 week shut down that commenced at midnight on that day. A newsletter is still being produced and electronic contact between individual members is continuing.

DIK update

Bob Glindemann provides this brief but informative update on DIK.

Further to my note below, the store is now part of the 6 week lock down so there are very few activities there.

We managed to get the cancelled Timor Container away with help from our regular volunteers and also another Timor unit that had been filled by others. There continue to be many deliveries made to the store. We are indebted to Laurie for being available to accept these.

Once we get out of this lock down, there are probably a dozen or so containers waiting for action.

...

Despite the challenges of COVID on fund raising, I believe that we will be able to meet our rental obligations for the coming financial year.

While there will be some impact of the close down on our total year's activity, we would still anticipate that we will ship a similar number of containers – mainly hospital units over the full financial year. A lot will depend on the success of this current shut down in being able to make a solid dent in the virus transmission.

Next meeting

28 July at 7:00pm – Board Meeting

4 August – 6:45, for 7pm start, to 8pm. On-line Club evening meeting

Cocktail Party at Moonee Valley Chamber – date TBC

Strathmore Community Bank® Branch



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