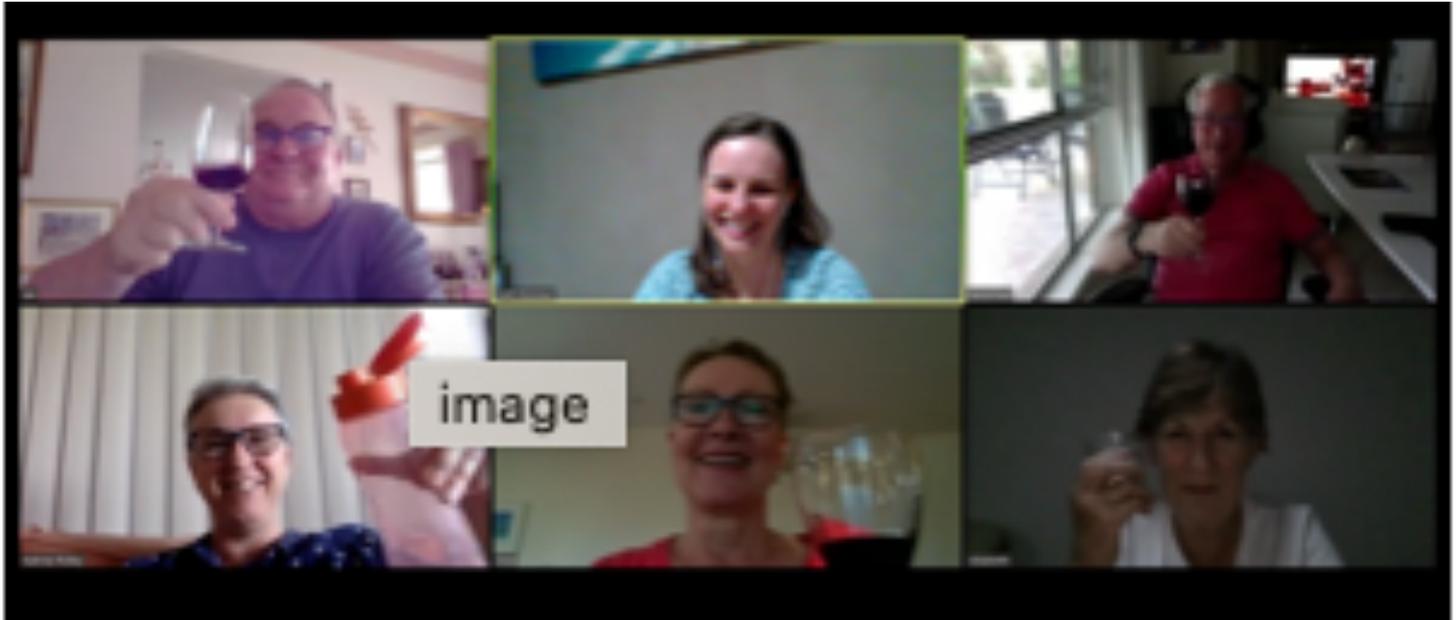


Bulletin 35/36 – 19/26 March 2020

ZOOM MEETINGS



History made last week– six members celebrate our first ever virtual meeting with a glass of red.

I am editing this week's bulletin as a foreign correspondent. At the time of the first Zoom meeting (19 March) Fiona and I enjoyed the company of several Rotarians and Partners sitting on the shoreline of beautiful Lake Macquarie. When the District Conference was cancelled due to the Corona Virus pandemic we felt obliged to honour the accommodation bookings we had held for almost 12 months at Belmont Lakeside Caravan Park. Our thoughts were with the small business operator who had lost significant trade during the difficult times we currently all endure. Fiona and I were joined by Geoff and Denise, John and Yvonne, John and Sheila and Bill and Mary. We all observed the Corona virus protocols by remaining 1.5 metres apart and drinking plenty of fluid.

The first historic meeting via Zoom went well with six members in virtual attendance. I have joined the ... other members in virtual attendance at tonight's meeting.

President Arja opened the previous meeting with the unfortunate news that reluctantly the Golf Committee had made the necessary decision to postpone this year's Charity Golf Day indefinitely. Arja stated that this decision had not been taken lightly and the committee needed to consider the age demographic of Rotary members working on the day, and both players and the public involved in the event as well as the staff of the Golf Club. Once the impact and threat of Covid 19 has been determined by authorities to have receded, planning of the day will recommence. Arja thanked all who had already put much effort into the event. Player fees will be refunded and sponsors will be contacted to explain the situation and encourage their future support. Discussion took place to determine whether we should proceed immediately with the proposed donation of \$10,000 towards the Kelvin Kong project from the already received proceeds from the golf day. Most sponsors have agreed to continue their sponsorship meaning that almost \$9,000 is already available from the day. Productive discussion provided a variety of well thought out views, the consensus being that we should wait till the conclusion of the event before a final decision.

Next meeting and each Thursday at 6.30pm till further notice – ZOOM MEETING

Join Zoom Meeting by visiting:
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6424376030>

Enter Meeting ID: 642 437 6030. (Do not log on before 6.25pm. Meeting duration 30 minutes.)

- Liz Friend has advised that our volunteer maintenance working bees at Gan Gan Lookout have been suspended till further notice.
- Concerns about health issues related to the use, maintenance and servicing the binoculars at Gan Gan Lookout took place and the concerns of all members were canvassed. Strategies for ensuring the safety of the public using the binoculars and Rotarians rostered to collect money were comprehensively reviewed. The consensus of the members involved in the meeting was that the binoculars should be removed till the Codiv-19 crisis had passed. Warwick Mathieson volunteered that he and Geoff Diemar would remove and store both sets of binoculars till it was considered safe to reinstall them
- Milton Williams has advised us that Bunnings has donated a \$500 gift card to our club. This very generous gesture has been made because they were forced to cancel barbeques till further notice. Gift cards were donated to all organisations having barbeques cancelled. This will compensate lost funds and allow service organisations such as ours to continue to serve the community.
- Chris Bartlett has advised that our club has been awarded a Bronze Award from Shelterbox for our contribution and support during the past year. This is one of five awarded in the District. Our club was also District runner up to Dubbo South (\$10,000) having raised \$9,200 for Australian Rotary Health.
- This very thoughtful suggestion has been proposed by Helen Ryan. It is suggested members consider the suggestion and make individual donations should they wish to do so.

"As we are no longer able to hold face to face meetings owing to the COVID-19 may we suggest that you support a Rotary programme such as ROMAC or ARH in lieu of paying weekly dinner fees. Both these excellent Rotary programmes are in need of funds to continue their work and the board sees this as a way of assisting them by donating monies we would have spent enjoying one another's company at a face to face meeting.

The link for ROMAC is <https://www.romac.org.au/>

and the link for ARH is <https://australianrotaryhealth.org.au/>

There is also the opportunity to personally support the Rotary Foundation whose link

is <https://www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary/rotary-foundation>. All these sights have links to make donations."

PICTURES FROM TONIGHTS MEETING CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 6.

COMING EVENTS

Thursday 26 Mar: Club Meeting – Bay Room – **CANCELLED replaced by ZOOM meeting**

Saturday – Sunday 28 – 29 Mar: Mherv visit Salamander Shopping Centre - **CANCELLED**

Thursday 2 April: Club Meeting - Bunnings Family Night – **CANCELLED (ZOOM Meeting)**

Friday 3 Apr: Rotary Charity Golf Day **postponed** due to Corona Virus pandemic.

Wednesday 8 Apr – Board meeting in Bay Room – **CANCELLED (ZOOM Meeting)**

Thursday 9 Apr: Meeting - **CANCELLED**

Saturday 11 Apr: Bunnings Barbeque – **CANCELLED.**

REGULAR EVENTS. (ALL CANCELLED TILL FURTHER NOTICE)

First Thursday of each Month: Dinner Ladies in the Bistro.

Second Wednesday of each Month: Project Neighbour at selected locations.

Third Wednesday of Each Month: Past & Present Members Morning tea at EVVIVA restaurant.

YACCABA WOMENS' REFUGE - (SOME HAPPY NEWS)



Outstanding progress has been made with the completion of paving and preliminary landscaping. Tile layers Doug and Don placed the 2000 pavers with precision on the carefully levelled area which had been surveyed and carefully prepared to exact dimensions by Community Service Director Milton. Chris and John were on hand to provide critical appreciation and advice.

The pavers were donated by the Salamander Bay Recycling Centre. Our next task will be to fix the lattice also donated by the Centre into place to provide some privacy to the area. We have requested a further donation of fixing posts from the Recycling Centre.

The final task will be the planting of deciduous vines to climb through the trellis. Staff members from the Yaccaba Centre are very pleased with the progress and look forward to being able to make use of the facility.

CLUB MEMBER WELFARE NEWS.

- Honorary member Terry Fitzsimons is currently a patient in Newcastle Private Hospital. Due to complications with his diabetes Terry has needed to have an operation to remove his second leg below the knee. When I spoke to Terry he was in good spirits. The hospital is in complete shutdown and visitors are not permitted. However, he is able to take phone calls (0408 639 522) and I am sure he would welcome a call. Terry has had a complication due to the wound failing to heal satisfactorily. He will require a second operation to remove some extra bone. This operation has had to be delayed due to him suffering a cold.
- Honorary member Ian Rolfe is recovering from a serious fall. He currently wears a neck brace to assist the healing of a fractured neck vertebra. Ian also is in good spirits and he too would welcome a friendly phone call. Ian is at home receiving excellent care from Pam.
- Honorary member Bill Brown and Beryl have sold their home and will move to the over 55 lifestyle village at Fern Bay. Here Bill will be closer to his family.
- Gordon Treble and Lynn have sold their Corlette home and moved to Bowral in the Southern Highlands. Despite calls we have not been able to make contact. All Rotarians wish Gordon and Lyn best wishes at their new location.
- Honorary member Bill and Mary Michel joined us for a very enjoyable week at Belmont. Bill and Mary despite some medical issues are both enjoying good health.

PHILL & CHRISTINES ADVENTURE.

I received this email from Phill late last week.

“Hi all
Just an update to let you know what’s happening with us.
We are presently 20 or so miles off the coast of Thailand. We have been anchored here or near to here for the last 5? days.
Sister ship “Columbus” anchored nearby at 5AM this morning and we are doing a passenger swap.
Passengers on our ship “Vasco da Gama” who live in Europe & UK are going to “Columbus” and Australian & New Zealanders on “Columbus” are coming to us.
When complete we will set off for Freemantle and are due to arrive on 27th.
Haven’t got details yet but we will then be flown to Sydney. Not sure if we will be overnight in Freemantle or not.

We have not touched land since embarking on 9th March and there has been no Coronavirus onboard.
Likewise we believe “Columbus” has been at sea for a similar time and they also are free of the virus.
We have been given exemption from 30 day cruise ship embargo on docking in Australia and there is a suggestion that we will not have to self-quarantine when we get home.
We are probably safer here than we will be when we get off.
We will be getting a full refund of the cruise component. Not sure about air fares etc., but we will have had 18 days on board by the time we get off and we’ve had a good time.
We even won a trivia quiz and received one juggling ball. We’re getting pretty good at juggling it and we’re working on winning another to see just how good we can get.
Seas have been boringly calm.
Have to go now.
It’s been at least an hour since we had something to eat - and we’re starting to feel a bit light-headed from the overnight alcohol fast.
Love to all
Phill and Chris”

Since then things have changed dramatically as indicated from the extract below copied from ABC News.

From Holiday Haven to Quarantine Zone

There are **three ships near the WA coast right now**, but only one — the Vasco da Gama — is carrying Australians.



The Vasco de Gama (Phill & Christine’s ship) is due to **arrive at Fremantle Port on Friday 27 March**, and it is carrying 800 Australians — including 200 West Australians.
Those 800 people will be shipped to Rottnest Island, a holiday hotspot that sits just off the coast of Perth, about 20 kilometres west of Fremantle.

Ferries to transport passengers to Rottnest

Australian passengers will be **transferred in a "controlled manner" to ferries** belonging to the three companies that usually service the island at Fremantle Port.

It is expected there will be a number of trips taken to transfer the passengers to the island to allow for appropriate **physical distancing** on the ferries and any **cleaning** required between journeys.

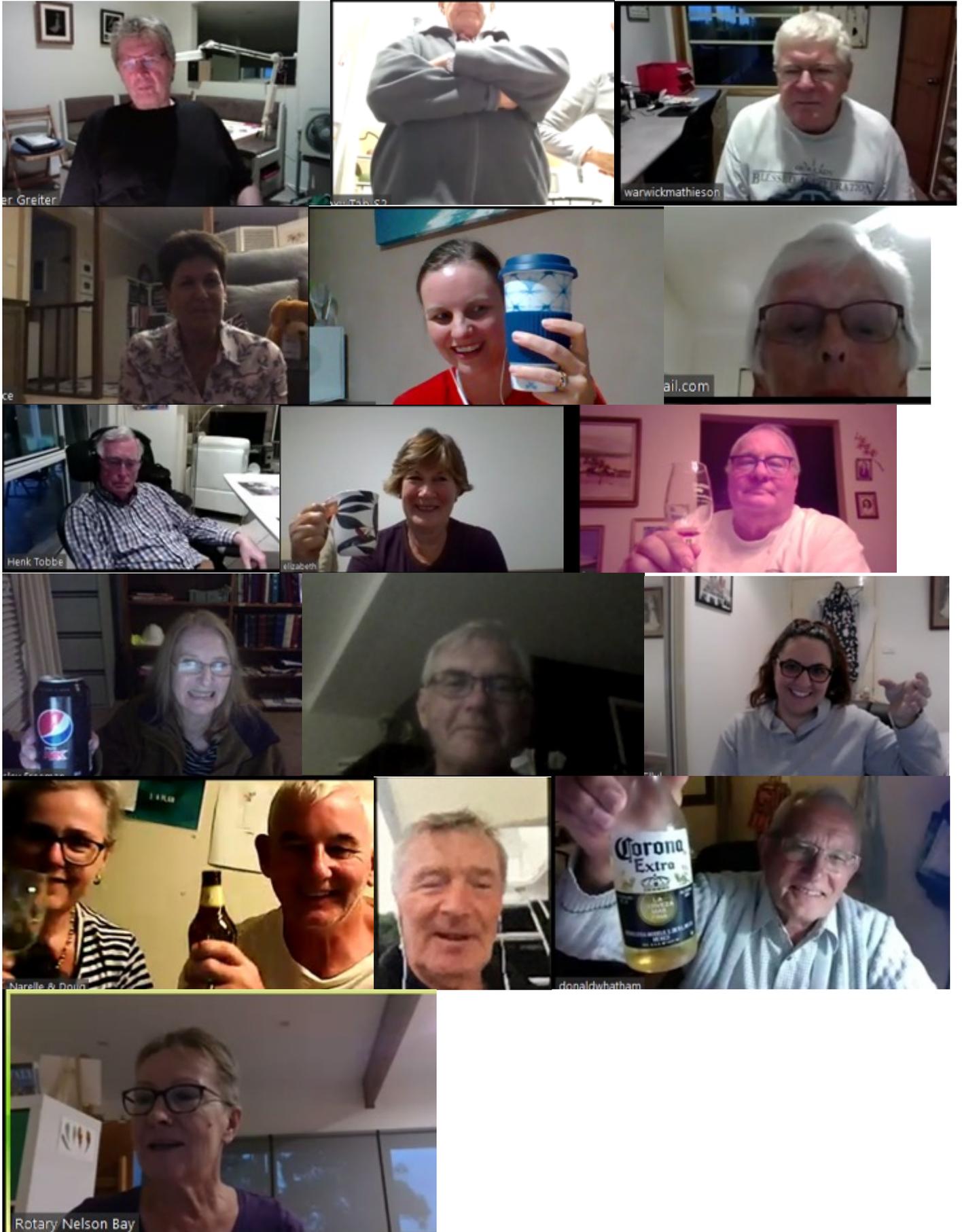


Where will they be staying?

On the island they will be housed in the existing, and recently vacated, accommodation, which includes a **hostel, bungalows, cabins and dormitories**.

Hotel Rottnest will not be used because a revamp is still underway.





A wonderful meeting – Thank you Arja and Kathy for setting up Zoom. If you need help with access please contact Kathy of Arja. Being at a Zoom meeting is great fun -almost like being in the Crow's Nest. PLEASE KEEP SAFE. Kind regards, Don (This week's Editor)