

PRESIDENT GREG'S UPDATE

10 September 2020

What a great Meeting to celebrate Are You Okay Day (“RUOK”).

It was wonderful to have 47 Zoom screens, including 2 paw-friends, joining virtually to stay connected. Pleasingly and quite appropriately, our Call-centre team have been contacting Members this week and asking that same question – RUOK. Equally, our partners, friends and colleagues of RCNB have been emailed this week to ask the same question of RUOK, and invite these, our wider family, to Thursday Meetings from now on just to offer a connection during these extended lockdown times. The responses have been most gratifying from Members and family alike, especially from those who we may not have seen for some time and they really appreciate the offer of contact.

This week's **Chat room** session was again immensely popular where the chat/sledging can become more far more 'intimate'yes, more Chat on 8 Oct and 5 Nov so stay tuned.

Sergeant Estelle's spotlight on Member's favourite **Victorian landmarks** was a real hoot – we continue to learn more about each other and this time, their various passions for local landmarks. Even our Croweater and token Brit managed to eventually swing their homeland passion around and finish in Victoria, thereby avoiding a folding stuff fine, thankfully. Well done Estelle and Members.

Jane's second **presentation on our Website** was invaluable to those unfamiliar with what is available – plenty to keep you surfing the Web during lockdown!!

The inimitable Ken Maxfield gave a brief update on **Camp Getaway** - disappointingly, our weekend there on 16-18 October maybe in doubt but already alternative dates are being discussed. Ken's tireless work with Camp Getaway is outstanding and we need to support him. Have a browse thru the very informative website <https://campgetawayaxedale.weebly.com/>

Hey Presto – the Raffle was drawn by Treasurer Geoff and won by PP Peter who is always pleased with more Bunnings gear. We have emailed Sue Ean at Bunnings Box Hill with our sincere thanks for making such a generous donation that allowed us to add some coin to our coffers. We also indicated that we are raring to go with cooking sausages and onions (on the bottom, please) as soon as possible.

A couple of other updates:

- Professor Amanda from Darwin has let us know that the equipment we are funding for research into **Indigenous Hearing** issues has been ordered and will arrive sometime in October. Amanda would be delighted to do a quick Zoom with us around that time to say a big thank you.
- Our friends at DIK loaded a container with medical equipment and is due to depart Melbourne Wednesday 16 September 2020 and is **due to arrive in Colombo, Sri Lanka** on Saturday 31 October 2020. Yet another great partnership with DIK/RCNB, plus \$3,000 funding from a District Grant to cover 1/3 of the cost is Rotary Opening Opportunities.
- Our **“North Balwyn's Got Talent”** meeting NEXT WEEK has 8 leading entertainers booked to delight and thrill you all – already the cast and crew are hard at it, practicing their routines.

With the Spring weather being warmer, having more daylight to enjoy and we see some faint light at the end of the lockdown tunnel, please continue to stay well, look after each other and remember to try and Open Opportunities.

President Greg