

# PRESIDENT GREG'S UPDATE

**11 February 2021**

A warm welcome was extended to our Guest Speaker, Professor Sue Evans from the Cancer Council of Victoria, and her mother Margaret Wilkins. At the outset, I asked Members to stand for a moment of silence for Kris, Maurie and family on the passing of their daughter Emily. Indeed, our Guest Speaker was aware of this sadness and touched on some positives of the Cancer Registry in her address, which gave some comforting perspective at this time.

As mentioned in my email immediately after Monday's Board, we have worked thru last week's booking gremlins and keep our fingers crossed going forward – tonight was immaculate, thank you all.

## **So, what have we been up to this week?**

Early morning pickup at 2nd Bite West Heidelberg, then delivery to Camcare Camberwell – last week was Rob Head, this morning was Geoff Haddy. We are advised that this Thursday pickup will still proceed.

Sunday Market – last week was Kris, Maurie, Jennifer, Janie, and this week was to have been (pre-lockdown) GregM, TonyW, Tak and David Cheney. I encourage all Members who have volunteered on one of our many rosters, to please find a replacement for yourself if you are unable to fill the obligation.

The RCNB Golf Day at KGC on 12 February was very, very successful for us all in being able to enjoy and say thank you to Members, sponsors, colleagues, and friends. The weather was extremely kind and how lucky were we to dodge lockdown by 24 hours!!!!!! There is a link in Grapevine to photos of the day where the smiling faces made all the hard work worthwhile. A sincere thank you to Greg Matthews for his tireless efforts with me to achieve such a positive outcome for RCNB.

Jane circulated three items for your attention:

- Membership acceptance for Grant King
- Volunteers for BBQ on 21 March, and
- Invitation to International Women's Day on Thursday 11 March

Our Board Meeting on Monday 8 February covered a host of items, including:

- Nominating our **Sri Lanka Project** for District Recognition
- Applying for a Stronger Communities **Grant to improve RCNB image** in the Community.
- Formal co-option of **Greg Ross** as Fundraising Director.
- Our **Club Visioning** Project
- The **Attendance process** for Thursdays
- **Disaster Relief Program**
- **The Rotaractors**
- Grand Prix planning post April 2021
- Catering re-start learnings
- Solomons, Vietnam, Sri Lanka updates.
- Cluster Membership still at Sunday Market each month
- School Essay Competitions is off and running.

## **The Board discussions on our Financial outlook are best summarised as:**

Now that the financial pathway ahead is clearer – no GP this financial year, but good news with the Camberwell Market, prospects of a successful Golf Day and the generous support by members in the past seven months – your Board took several important decisions in allocating available SERVICE funds.

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- Members with long memories might remember painting at the Lord Mayors Camp. This is now called The Portsea Camp. Greg Matthews pointed out that, because of COVID, they are currently in quite serious need of support. In a normal year, the camp is enjoyed and cherished by more than 10,000 children and 250 volunteers. Your Board has allocated and paid a donation of \$2,000.
- Normally money from our silver pot is sent to Australian Rotary Health and allocated towards indigenous scholarships. There is no silver pot this year, but your Board has allocated and paid \$1,000 in place of this usual contribution.
- Through Boroondara Cares Foundation we are supporting the Chances Scholarship Program providing scholarships for socially isolated and disadvantaged students in our own area. A \$2,000 donation has been paid.
- More than two years ago, several of our members made contributions upon the death of Bev Thomas, wife of former member Brian. Both Brian and his wife were, and Brian still is, heavily involved in the Days for Girls project in the Solomons, particularly with maintenance of sewing machines. Ever since your donations were received, a suitable project has been sought to use that money in a way compatible with Bev's interests. We now have such an opportunity through Sister Ceci Oli who is known to the D for G team. We are arranging for \$2,000, the money you and others contributed, to be sent to the Solomons.
- Some of our intended major international payments are not happening this year because of COVID restrictions stalling those projects. However, the Board has been able to make the following international allocations.
  - \$2,580 to the Lotus Education Fund enabling education for young vulnerable girls in Laos, a project dear to the heart of International Director John Burley.
  - \$1,500 to assist water and sanitation assessment in Vietnam. The Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh is the lead club in this project, and our payment has been made to them.
  - A payment of \$2,500 has been made to RAM (Rotarians Against Malaria). Our member Sue McDonald has also been raising funds for RAM and we will forward those monies as well (currently \$515) before year end.

Although not yet finalized the Board is looking at ways to progress our Homeless initiatives – probably via SERVANTS. That remains work in progress with no final decision, but we hope to assist to the tune of \$4,000.

Our Vocational Services Director is keen to see the essay competition run once again, and the Board has penciled in a \$3,000 expenditure.

Many of our Youth activities have been cancelled due to COVID but we are hopeful RYPEN may still happen.

Possibly at a lower level than some previous years, the Board is very keen to continue our support for the Rotary Foundation and the End Polio campaign hopefully to the tune of \$9,000.

There is lots happening and plenty more to do.

Sergeant Estelle then kept us on our toes (as always) with testing our/my memories in this month's Rotary Peace month. Spot-on Estelle, and very poignant, thank you.

In introducing our **Guest Speaker, Professor Sue Evans**, Director of the Victorian Cancer Registry, I noted on the Cancer Council of Victoria website the motto of **Prevent Cancer. Empower Patients. Save Lives**. That really set the scene for one of our more memorable presentations. So very professional in style, so clear with the content and broad areas covered, highlighting significant improvements in the outlook and all with a very personable character who carried the night when our emotions were all with Kris & Maurie. Well-handled Sue.

Next week, we will meet as normal at KGC, as the lockdown is assumed to end on midnight Wednesday. Our **Guest Speaker Prof Charles Sowerwine** will give us some of his amazing insight into Melbourne Heritage. VP Tony Wells will host next week's Meeting.

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Lastly, I wished for the Golf event on Friday to be good weather, great fellowship and overall be successful – **WE DID ALL OF THAT JUST ONE DAY BEFORE LOCKDOWN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!** Yes, all very visible in our Yellow Shirts both on and off the course, spruiking our thanks to players, sponsors, volunteers, and the Kew team. We also extracted money for Raffles. A huge thank you again to all involved.

Finally, endure another lockdown, stay well, and stay connected.... again. We care for you all.

As a Club, please Volunteer for any of the range of activities we are involved with – the experience will be worthwhile in Opening Opportunities, I can assure you.

Have a pleasant week.