

PRESIDENT GREG'S UPDATE

15 April 2021

A very warm welcome was extended to another RCNB Meeting – it seemed a big ask to top last week's fun meeting with David Mann but think we have done so tonight!! It is always great to have some new faces joining us, thank you.

A particular welcome to **Tim Piper**, a very busy man with the **Australian Business Association** giving us some perspectives on **the Covid Impact of Business**.

We were also delighted that representatives from our local Traders joined us, essentially to pick up any tips from Tim:

- ✓ **Greythorn Traders Association** - Paula Monaco (Boroondara Eye Care), Rita Alessio (one of the many retailers), Yolanda Torrisi (Marketing Co-ordinator) and Joseph Yap (Real Estate).
- ✓ **Kew Junction Business Association** – Con Barbayannis (Star Pharmacy) and Denise Hall,
- ✓ We were also graced with the presence of my **fellow Presidents from our Eastside Cluster** - Tim Reynolds (Balwyn), Tony Laycock (Canterbury) and Murray Anderson (Camberwell). We have been meeting each month with AG Casey and I really appreciate the camaraderie.

Also, we welcomed first timers **Mandy Truong** and **Cathy Lewinsky**. Hope they found the meeting interesting and enjoyable – look forward to seeing you again.

We also welcomed second timers, **Dean and Gulser Wells** – great to have you return.

And last but by no means least, our fellow Rotarian from **Hello World North Balwyn, Ian Mollison** joined us - delighted to see you.

I again acknowledged Community Projects where we have Member participation:

- **Sunday Market** – 11/4 TonyW, Tak, Janie, TerryK – 18/4 – GregM, GrantK, JohnM, TerryK – 25/4 – no Market, Anzac Day.
- **RCNB Gardening Project** – back from School Holidays so Friday 23/4 – GeoffH, Rob Hortin, Tak – Sat 24/4 – Rowan - Friday 30/4 – GeoffH, Findley at Camcare to establish new garden beds.
- **2nd Bite to Camcare Camberwell** – 8/4 – RobH – 15/4 – GregC, 22/4 - Garth
- **BBQ's – last Saturday at Bunnings, we made just on \$1000** in the 'interesting' weather conditions. A great crew of JohnMcB, Peter & Sally, PhilF, GrantK, Eileen, JohnB, Duncan, Janie, Imre and myself. Looking ahead, **Sunday 25/4 from 11am Bunnings BBQ** - Imre, PhilF, RobHead, DavidC, Sue, Kris & Maurie, Jennifer, Jane, GregR, Imre, Brian. **Saturday 1st May 10.30-1pm** Balwyn Community Centre.
- **The Vocational team of PeterD, GregR, Eileen and Jeanette** who have just completed judging of the 88 Essays submitted in our RCNB competition of "What will my life be like in 20 years' time". Awards will be made hopefully in May sometime.
- All of those on the **Thursday Duty Roster** as in this week's Grapevine. Well done.
- **2MAURO** - entertained at Basscare this afternoon. Great Community spirit!

Looking ahead, a few dates and activities to enjoy:

- ❖ **Monday 19th April** – RCNB Board Meeting – one item on the Agenda is the consideration of RC Balwyn Centenary Grants opportunity, thank you Tim. These Grants range in value from \$10-100k and applications for this round close 31 September.
- ❖ **Wednesday 21st April** 100th Anniversary Lunch with Rotary Melbourne at the Sofitel. Contact me for more details Mob 0413 270403.
- ❖ **Thursday 22nd April** we will have **David Grierson** as our Guest Speaker on "**Why Anzac Day is so important**". We will also be recognising the **R100 Centenary**. JimS is standing in for Hugo but same process for acceptances please. *Partners/Friends/Guests are warmly welcomed at any time.*

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- ❖ **Thursday 29th April** – we will be joined by **Paul Rizzo** former non Executive Director of NAB talking about the Banking Royal Commission. And April being the Rotary month for Maternal and Child Health, we will hear from our very own **Sue McDonald**.
- ❖ **Saturday 1st May – 10.30am – 1.00pm - BBQ at Balwyn Community Center**
- ❖ **Saturday 1st May – 10.00am to 4.30pm** – Hyatt Place Essendon Fields – the Multi District Conference: Virtual Victoria & District 9800 Breakout & Showcase Event. Refer to the email from Jane yesterday with more details, registration and cost.
- ❖ **Saturday 1st May and Sunday 2nd May – 11.00am to 1.00pm** – Virtual Multi District Conference (by Zoom, so it is free).
- ❖ **Sunday 2nd May at 2pm** – a FREE event – a COVID-delayed civic celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the End of WW2. Invitation is from Councillor Di Gillies and will be held at Auburn Uniting Church, Oxley Road, Hawthorn. More details in Grapevine.
- ❖ **Tuesday 4th May – 10.00am** Peter Elliott - Working Bee at the containers – We have repair work to be done to the floor and shelving to erect in Container 3, Unused equipment to be assessed and disposed of if necessary (after consultation with those interested), Rubbish to be tipped, General tidy up of all equipment etc. etc. Please let **Peter Elliott** know if you are willing to spare a couple of hours and a bit of elbow grease.
- ❖ **Thursday 6th May is our Masked 41st Birthday Party** night with special guest **Josh Piterman** talking on 'The Phantom in the West End'.
- ❖ **Thursday 13th May and Monday 17th May** Peter Elliott - Loan (for a fee) of our Marquee to the Moonee Valley Art Show, in Essendon – delivery and retrieval dates. PeterE needs a small team to assist, please. Peter's mobile is 0419 417334.
 - ❖ **By Monday 31st May** - remember to use your Greythorn Traders \$10 voucher.
 - ❖ **Thursday 24th June** – Changeover night here at Kew Golf Club

Oh, and by-the-way, our VP Tony Wells will be Chairing the Meetings on 29/4 and 6/5 as Jen and I will be away.....

Sergeant Estelle – Noted the various RCNB anniversaries, birthdays, and the rearranged Meeting Roster. The fine session returned and bolstered the coffers.

President Greg then acknowledged the tremendous support given by **Paula Monaco from Boroondara Eye Care** to our RCNB Projects, particularly in villages in Vietnam over recent years. Paula is already known to many of us, but it is her tireless work in cleaning and repairing spectacles for reuse that has made a remarkable impact in communities in Vietnam. Indeed, I understand that two of our Members witnessed an elderly man try on floral framed glasses and his joy was overwhelming at being able to read the newspaper for the first time in 10 years - great stuff. *So, folks, on your behalf, I presented a sincere letter of thanks to Paula – remember Boroondara Eye Care in the Greythorn Village!!*

Brian Lacy was then presented a PHF +3 pin for his recent contributions to Foundation – such amounts are always very much appreciated and acknowledged.

Rowan McClean Hosted Guest Speaker – Tim Piper on the Covid Impact of Business. A very enlightening and professionally presented review of economic impacts throughout the lockdown to the present day, followed by insight into some of the issues facing businesses, State Governments and the federal government going forward. Thanks Tim.

Enjoy the shorter days, the variable Melbourne weather and treasure good friendships – continue to enjoy all of the Opportunities that RCNB has Open to you.

President Greg 😊