

# PRESIDENT GREG'S UPDATE

20 May 2021

It was a real pleasure to welcome back past Member Geoff Kneale, his wife Melissa and daughter Emily to our Meeting – really great to catch up with them and hear more about Click 'n' Collect.

We were also delighted to welcome Guests:

- ✓ **Dean & Gulser Wells** (soon to be New Members)
- ✓ **Cathy Lewinski** - guest of Rowan McClean
- ✓ **Andrew & Lynn Bain** - guests of Geoff Haddy
- ✓ **Sam Allan & Anika Rakesh from Balwyn HS** who attended the RYPEN camp and came to tell us about it.

And of course, always great to see Maurie and GregM better-halves, Kris & Heather.

**And Happy Volunteer's week** – Garth, GeoffH and I were at Camcare's afternoon tea to celebrate the tireless work of all their Volunteers, including us, on Tuesday.

**Sadly, I do need to advise Members of three very recent resignations – Duncan Ansell, Steven Greateorex and Adam Hillary.** These 3 Rotarians have all contributed in varying ways to the ongoing success of our Club over the years, but now find health, family and business priorities need more time and attention - my grateful thanks to the each of them.

**Last Monday, we held a Board Meeting where Maurie's new team members joined us.** We (being 16 of us....) discussed a range of items, including:

- Our Club's commitment to a RIMERN Project (Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network) a DIK look alike in inner Melbourne. Rob Head is our contact point.
- A significant International Project for Improving Health and Hygiene in Laos, to be submitted for a RC Balwyn Centenary Grant.
- A number of aspects of Year-end Changeover, reports, Membership and fees.
- Status of our many Community Service activities, including drought relief.
- Approval of two payments from our Disaster Recovery Committed Fund - \$2k to DIK for shipping hand sanitizer to East Timor and \$2k to RAWCS for flood relief in Dili, East Timor.
- Commitment of support for Camp Getaway.
- Rotaract update on recent activities and forward plan.
- Fundraising overview and initiatives planned – going quite well, albeit we have no certainly yet of the Grand Prix happening in November.
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**An overview of the activities the Club continues to be involved with:**

- **Sunday Market**– Thank you for, 16/5 - RobHead, SueMcD, RobHorton, JenniferH, 23/5 – Garth, Maurie & Kris, Jane 30/5 - Tak, Sue, Grant, Duncan
- **RCNB Gardening Project** – Pari and her Camcare team are absolutely delighted with work to date, Geoff & LisH & I were there again this morning. 21/5 – JanieP, NeilM...need another, please. Sat 22/5 Tak & CrisY
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Bite to Camcare Camberwell** – 20/5 Maurie, 27/5 - GregC 3/6 - GeoffH
- **BBQ's** – next bbq 10<sup>th</sup> July, then 8<sup>th</sup> August.
- **AND** to all those who Members who assisted PeterE with having **our 9m x 6m marquee** setup for the RC Keilor Art Show last weekend. Nice little earner for us.

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- The planning for Maurie's new Board for 2021/22 continues to ramp up – remember, **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June** – Changeover night here at Kew Golf Club
- Upcoming Guest Speakers include next week "Project Dignity" with 2 speakers hosted by Jeanette Leigh, and Jessie Harman (along with our Year6 essay winners) on 3 June, Michael Gorton AM on 10 June and DGE Amanda Wendt on 17 June.

### **PAUL HARRIS FELLOW (PHF) RECOGNITION**

*It was my pleasure to ask Geoff Kneale to come forward. Since Geoff and Melissa's sea-change 'down south' late last year, we have been holding a PHF Award to present to him for his outstanding efforts both within our Club and communities generally.*

*"The presentation of a Paul Harris Fellow recognition is The Rotary Foundation's way of expressing its appreciation for a substantial contribution to its humanitarian and educational programs.*

*The recognition is named after Rotary's founder, the late Paul Harris, a Chicago lawyer, who started Rotary with three business associates in 1905. The Club has made a contribution of \$1,000 US dollars to the Rotary Foundation on your behalf as a tangible acknowledgement of all you have given to Rotary. In being named a Paul Harris Fellow Geoff Kneale joins a remarkable company of people throughout the world, all recognised for their commitment to Service Above Self to benefit local and international communities".*

*It gives me great pleasure Geoff to present you with the pin of appreciation given to Paul Harris Fellow recipients. We congratulate you and thank you for your commitment to Rotary's common goals of world understanding and peace. We congratulate Geoff Kneale.*

**Sergeant Estelle's session** was again informative, lively, and expensive for those receiving a range of fines. Birthdays and Anniversaries were also acknowledged.

**Rob Head hosted Geoff Kneale, our Guest Speaker.** In what has been an extremely interesting journey, Geoff had very successfully developed new initiatives into various markets, including safe Baby Care seats and Blu Stick glue. Then came an inconvenient delivery of running shoes that has eventually led to the challenges of establishing Click n Collect globally. What a story. From an 'office' on his kitchen table to now have a team of 70 located around the world, Geoff's organization provides major online retailers a safe, convenient lockup delivery point for customer orders. Essential to this operation is having very high-tech and interactive software to enable smooth but safe supply of items ordered. The growth both local and now internationally is already exceptional with Geoff and Melissa having extra challenges last year of a sea-change to Parkdale, getting married and each enduring having Covid for a time. Simply, an extraordinary decade year but as Geoff says, "Rotary was an important supporting community and inspirational during a difficult period". We take our hats off to you!!!

- In closing, we again **thanked Geoff** for his amazing presentation and both **Sam and Nick** for sharing their RYPEN experiences – glad that you enjoyed it and have some learnings to take forward with you. Thanks Jane as well!!
- Just a reminder that bookings are open for our **Changeover night on 24<sup>th</sup> June** – see **Grapevine for the usual link.**

As always, continue to enjoy all of the Opportunities that RCNB has Open to you.

President Greg 😊