

PRESIDENT GREG'S UPDATE

21 January 2021

Being my first Meeting for 2021, having charged the batteries over the Festive Season, it was great to be back at Kew for a second face-to-face Club Meeting.

We had three visitors at the Meeting being our Guest Speaker Dianne Sides, Friend of RCNB Maria Gouvoussi and a neighbour of Neil Marshall, Grant King. There were a number of Members at Servants cooking up a BBQ storm that evidently was extremely well received. Also, a few Members are still enjoying post-Covid escapes. So, we anticipate numbers to increase at Meetings in February as this provides vital fellowship in the Club that was missing during Zoom times.

Lots of thanks for what is happening around our busy Club:

- John Magor for Chairing last week's Meeting.
- The BBQ team at Servants and next Tues (Aust Day in the Park).
- GregM for pulling together what looks like being a successful Golf Day on Fri 12 Feb.
- JimS and all of those assisting me with the quite complex Aust Day arrangements.
- Estelle, Tak, Rowan and Terry Keyhoe at the Camberwell Market last Sunday and all those Volunteering.
- The team doing the 2nd Bite/Camcare delivery each Thursday.
- Neil's amazing Gardening team is again active on Fridays & Saturdays – two thank you letters from very appreciative clients were then read out.
- John Burly/JJ/Jeanette for finalising th Container to Sri Lanka paperwork – more from JJ at a future Meeting when he will present overview to us.
- And any others that I have missed..... thank you all!!

Looking forward:

- Servant's BBQ tonight – we are discussing a Homelessness Project with Servants.
- **Aust Day Tues 26 January** – Victoria Park, Kew – please come 11-4pm.
- Board Meeting 8 Feb, talking about a number of items, including the GP deferral.
- **Golf Day Friday 12 Feb.**
- **Gardening is on Friday/Saturday, Camberwell Market is on Sundays.**

I am conscious of so many activities requiring Members to know where the various Rosters sit – this has been a change from the old-style Grapevine to now have a link in each Grapevine to the Volunteering Activities, which if you click on, will take you to our Website and Members area. A trick that I use is to nominate 'save password' when the Website appears as this gets you into the site more easily, without having to remember many Usernames/Passwords. If unsure, Jane can help you.

A matter of housekeeping, all areas of the **Kew Golf Club are 'mask free'** – like the good old days.... Sergeant Estelle noted some anniversaries and then asked Members to keep an eye on **the Duty Roster** as our nomadic Membership can make her role a challenge. All is good when all Members share the load and commit. Being **Rotary Vocation month**, PDG Greg Ross then gave an excellent precis of our initiatives in this most important portfolio. Both Greg and Peter Downton are to be congratulated on their new Scholarship initiative and Essay Writing activity.

PDG Jim Studebaker then spoke on **the importance of having a vibrant Membership at the Club** and the challenge of reaching out for others – certainly at times of post-Covid, there seems to be a nervousness in the community to re-engage and maybe a factor in our lower numbers attending Meetings. As we go forward, let us shake off the Covid blues, connect with others and enjoy the fellowship of our great Club.

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Our **Guest Speaker, Dianne Sides, President of the Boroondara Family Network** was then introduced. As Chairperson, Dianne has been instrumental in operating BFN for the past twenty years which is a volunteer home visiting service, providing support and practical advice to stressed families. Their clients are mothers with babies and/or toddlers who live in the City of Boroondara. Dianne and her family have long Rotary experience and her passion for BFN in the Boroondara area was most evident. In many cases, several of Dianne's personal and passionate life experiences rang a bell with us all. Thanks Dianne.

In closing, I noted the **array of Guest speakers lined up to the end of February** – see Grapevine. Come along and enjoy the wide range of presentations but equally, let us know of anybody suitable for a speaking spot sometime soon.

The Festive Season is behind us as is, hopefully Covid.... **let us all get out there and enjoy Opening Opportunities.** Have a pleasant week.

President Greg 😊