

PRESIDENT GREG'S UPDATE

22 April 2021

Being ANZAC week, a particular welcome to David Grierson as Guest Speaker and his wife, Pam – David challenged us on “Why Anzac Day is so important”. We were also delighted that Jan Cheney, Sue Fitz and Judy Steinicke joined us, as well.

Last Monday night, your Board met and discussed a number of items including:

- ✓ Servants Homelessness Project
- ✓ RC Balwyn Centenary Grant opportunity – Our Cluster Meeting also discussed this on Wednesday at our Meeting.
- ✓ Fundraising achievements and look forward.
- ✓ Treasury matters – added new signatories, payment to Foundation,
- ✓ Membership – potential new Members & retention of existing Members.
- ✓ Extended /LOA coming up for key RCNB Members.
- ✓ PE Maurie positions for 2021/22 – Sergeant/Editor/Website to be sorted.
- ✓ Vocational – Schools Essay competition – awards to be made late May.
- ✓ Changeover - arrangements for 24th June, including Annual Reports required.
- ✓ Boroondara Volunteer Resource Centre membership – possible resource?
- ✓ Rotary District Conference 1&2May – by Zoom both days, face-to-face 1/5
- ✓ Consideration of Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Project – like DIK...

On Wednesday, Greg Ross joined me at the **RC of Melbourne for a R100 Birthday** lunch at the Sofitel in the City. More about R100 later in the program, suffice to say the Centenary yesterday, 21 April, was a great day for Rotary and Rotarians.

As is my normal practice, I say thank you to Members participating in our range of Community Projects:

- **A new thank you this week** – for those who may not be aware, the local Opportunity Shop is supported during the week by our very own Tak and some Rotaractors. Quite unexpectedly, Treasurer Geoff noted two deposits in our Bank account - **\$500 as a thank you to Rotaractors** for 2 bookfairs and **\$1000 for “Tak’s work and support”** – just amazing work in the Community, thank you.
- **Sunday Market–18/4** – GregM, GrantK, JohnM, TerryK – **25/4** – no Market, Anzac Day, 2/5 – JoeB, JohnR, GeoffH, JohnMcB. A favour for the RC Balwyn Market co-ordinator – he compiles the rather complex Sunday schedule of Volunteers early the week before so really, really wants to avoid last minute dropouts and changes. **STOP PRESS \$5,059.13 received from RC Balwyn for RCNB’s 1st quarter Volunteering 😊.**
- **RCNB Gardening Project** – Friday **23/4** – GeoffH, Rob Hortin, Tak – **Sat 24/4** – Rowan - **Friday 30/4 & Fri 7/5**– GeoffH, Findley at Camcare to establish new garden beds. Whilst mentioning Gardening, we received a **lovely thankyou note** this week from a resident in East Kew, thanking Rotary Members/Rowan for her ‘perfect’ garden and describing Rowan as a “garden angel”
- **2nd Bite to Camcare Camberwell** – **22/4** – Garth, 29/4 – RobHead. *Thank you to SueMcD and John Magor for joining the Volunteer delivery team.*
- **BBQ’s** – **Sunday 25/4 from 11am Bunnings BBQ** - Imre, PhilF, RobHead, DavidC, Sue, Kris & Maurie, Jennifer, Jane, GregR, Imre, Brian. **Saturday 1/5 10.30-1pm** Balwyn Community Centre **Looking for 6 Volunteers.**

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- **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 Grapevine. Thank you.
- **2MAURO** – entertainment program grows by the week. Great Community spirit!

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Looking ahead, a few dates:

- ❖ **Thursday 29th April** – we will be joined by Paul Rizzo ex NAB CEO 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** – at Hyatt Place Essendon Fields – the Multi District Conference: **Victoria & District 9800 Breakout & Showcase Event. R**
- ❖ **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.

And just a reminder that our VP Tony Wells will be Chairing the Meetings on 29/4 and 6/5 as Jen and I will be away.

Sergeant Estelle – updated us with Anniversaries and birthdays – with fines collected.

On Wednesday, the RC Melbourne celebrated 100 years in Australia/NZ.

To quote from The Age, **23 April 1921:**

The Rotary movement has invaded Melbourne. On Thursday, the first luncheon of the newly formed Rotary Club was held and attended by a large gathering of Members. The function was marked by the fun and good humour which supporters of the movement cultivate – for Rotary has a special creed of its own, Mr H.B. Lee, who holds the office of Sergeant-At-Arms was presented with a boomerang as a mark of office.

Telegrams were received from the USA, Halifax, and Britain congratulating the charter members including Sir John Monash, and many other prominent citizens. From that auspicious start at Scott's Hotel in Melbourne, first meetings in Sydney, Wellington and Auckland followed within several weeks. Within a short period of time many other city and regional Clubs were established. The rest, as they say, is history and our time had arrived.

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But where did Rotary begin?

The world's first service club was founded on **23 February 1905** when lawyer Paul Harris and three friends met in a small office in **downtown Chicago**. These men wanted to rekindle in the turn-of-the-century city the spirit of friendliness they had known in their hometowns. Word of the club soon spread, and others were invited to join. They named their new club "Rotary" to describe the practice of meeting in rotation at the members' various places of business.

Originally formed for fellowship, the first Rotary club quickly evolved to use the talents and resources of its members to serve the community. By the end of 1905, the Rotary Club of Chicago had 30 members. Three years later a second club was established in San Francisco, California, USA. The next year three more clubs were established on the west coast of the United States and a fourth in New York City. Within a few years other groups formed service clubs based on the Rotary model.

During the 1911-1912 Rotary year, the association became international with the founding of a club in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Soon Rotary crossed the Atlantic to establish clubs in England, Ireland, and Northern Ireland. The National Association of Rotary Clubs, which became the International Association of Rotary Clubs in 1912, adopted the name **Rotary International (RI) in 1922**. Before reaching its 20th birthday, the Rotary association had grown to include some 200 clubs with more than 20,000 members across the globe: The first Rotary club in Latin America was organized in Havana, Cuba in 1915. Asia's first club was established in Manila, Philippines in 1919. **In 1921, Rotary clubs were organized for the first time on continental Europe (Madrid, Spain), Africa (Johannesburg, South Africa), and four Rotary Clubs were created in Melbourne, Auckland, Wellington, and Sydney.**

It is interesting to note that first admitted in 1987, women are today the fastest-growing segment of Rotary membership, and increasingly hold leadership positions within the organization. More than **2,000 women** serve as club presidents and women are also rapidly assuming regional leadership roles. Currently, **some 1.2 million professional men and women belong to more than 30,000 clubs worldwide.**

Here in Rotary Australia and New Zealand, Centennial celebrations aim to raise awareness of Rotary's incredible work through gaining positive publicity, as well as boosting membership for Rotary clubs.

Each club was asked to create their own legacy project to propel the organisation into the next century. The Eastside Cluster of four clubs was not going to sit down on that job. From April 2020, the Balwyn, Camberwell, Canterbury, and North Balwyn clubs, with Boroondara Council and residents, decided to collaborate on the creation of a suitable commemorative piece as a Rotary100 initiative.



The inscription on the plaque required consensus from the Cluster clubs, Council By-laws, and Rotary standards. The final plaque was approved in October 2020 and was installed on 4th February 2021. The final cost of the seat/plaque was \$2,500, jointly funded by the Cluster Clubs. An acceptable amount in challenging times for each of the Cluster Clubs to contribute.



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All Eastside Cluster Presidents and Club Members worked together harmoniously, contributing ideas, knowledge, and personal contacts to eventually get the job done.

This Rotary 100 initiative is a Project that our Rotary Eastside Cluster Clubs are justly proud of. Balwyn Park is used year-round, and the public can enjoy resting and ruminating on the Rotary bench and quietly say, thanks Rotary for the seat of contemplation.

So, we say Happy Birthday to RC Melbourne for yesterday.

David Cheney hosted Guest Speaker, David Grierson. A fascinating walk thru detailed war-time history and events, the significance of medals and really made for a timely reminder of the sacrifices our forebears endured. This was followed by some light-hearted stories of various in-flight dignitaries. An amazing presentation, thank you.

Being Anzac week, let us remember all who have gone before us and appreciate life as it is today. As always, continue to enjoy all of the Opportunities that RCNB has Open to you.

See you in a couple of weeks.

President Greg 😊