

PRESIDENT GREG'S UPDATE

24 September 2020

The Meeting opened with some words from President Greg about the late Barry Cummings followed by a quiet moment of appropriate reflection. You may like to [read](#) these.

This Meeting marks around 6 months of Zooming in lockdown conditions with an end maybe in sight.

At our Board Meeting last Monday, our great achievements to date were noted, especially:

1. Keeping our **Members and now friends connected** with Meetings, Grapevine, emails, phone calls and the Forum. THE most important role.
2. Putting in place a **"Prudent" financial plan**, appropriate for the circumstances. Here, I warmly acknowledge the generosity of Members who have contributed 'spare cash' to the initiatives such as VSF, Raffle, Food, Walk. Might I say, that when we can commence cooking snags, the need for such donations may not be as necessary, thankfully. Just on that, we need 'somebody' to Volunteer to relieve Nino of the Sales and distribution of Eggs & Sanitiser from October – any takers, please, let me know?
3. **Cutting the cloth of planned activities to fit our financial and Member limits.**
4. Continued with local opportunities to **provide our support** (e.g. 2nd Bite/Camcare) and showcase our Rotary Cluster [R100 seat in Balwyn Park](#), signifying 100 years Rotary Aust/NZ.
5. Pursuing three more distant Projects – one for [Hearing Research](#) in Darwin, a second being sending support to **Vanuatu post cyclone** and the third being [Shipping Medical equipment ex DIK to Sri Lanka](#).

It was indeed gratifying for some of us to attend a Rotary Business Breakfast by Zoom the next morning (Tuesday) where the CEO of Minter Ellison, Annette Kimmett summarised their focus during Covid as:

1. Maintaining Financial Viability
2. Maintenance of the Health/Welfare of their 3000 employees, including medical support.
3. Doing everything to stay connected to Clients – e.g. walking/fun
4. How do we operate during easing of restrictions – e.g. electronic considerations and staying flexible
5. What Strategic steps do they take toward 'New Normal'?

I am not too bold to suggest that Annette has been listening to our Board meetings as Minter Ellison areas of focus align with what we talked about on Monday!!! It all makes good, logical sense, for which I am thankful.

That is, our planning and achievements to date will continue as we go forward – the trick though for our Board and the Club is to be focussing longer term toward "New Normal". Hence much of Mondays discussion was around looking forward not backwards.

What does Board envisage ahead??

Committee Membership Guide. In looking forward, the Board believes it important that we all know of the respective roles we all play, whether it be on a sub-committee or Lone Ranger. The [document on our Website](#) gives an indication by Member of who-is-doing-what as we move forward and needs to remain semi-flexible to meet both Member's and Club's needs, availabilities, and priorities. As always, happy to chat over any suggestions.

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And to pull together a lot of the perceived protocols on **Covid-19 compliance arrangements** as we "possibly" get relief from lockdown later this year, our Club Service Director Adam Hillary is coordinating some pro-active thinking for October Board on protocols for face-to-face activities including Meetings etc. Please do contact **Adam or me with any specific questions/thoughts that need covering in our outlook on coming out of lockdown**. We would love to hear from you.

(EXCEPT, do NOT ask when does lockdown end.....that will attract folding stuff!!)

What else are we looking at?

From a Cluster Meeting on Wed 6th Sept:

- **Sunday Market** is still on hold.....
- **A homelessness initiative** as a Project is a common desire within our Cluster -watch this space.
- RC Canterbury has now provided over 100,000 meals in their **FORaMEAL Project** – President Tony Laycock will be speaking on this at the Morning Tea with the DG on Sat 26th September.

For registration pre end Sept - [October walk with Rotaractors](#) – this initiative is receiving some Member support already, thank you. This is simply walking during October (which we are all doing anyway) and all walkers/donors support our potential Rotaractors by raising some funds so why not join us?

In keeping with our thinking about the way forward, next Thursday 1st October our Guest Speaker Dave Burt from <https://sportandlifetraining.com.au/> will be joining us to talk about **Re-entry into the Community after Covid**. A very topical Guest Speaker who was highly acclaimed in addressing a Rotary Cluster Club a few months ago.

Also, on 1st October, Zoom guests from St. Arnaud will be dropping by – **Pres Greg Fithall and his 2IC Rusty Steele** are wanting to catch up, thank us for the DRP efforts and give a brief update on the positive happenings in St. Arnaud.

Later in October, our plans for journeying to **Camp Getaway and Bright weekends are looking shaky** – watch this space, eh Maurie??

Equally in October, any plan to **visit the Fire affected areas** along the Murray River area have been deferred until the New Year for practical reasons.

Date for DG visit – DG Philip Archer will be attending a Zoom Cluster Meeting of North Balwyn, Balwyn, Camberwell, and Canterbury on **Wednesday 28th October at 6.30pm** – please all, try to attend. The plan is for RCNB to still meet the following night as normal.

Heading toward our **AGM on 19th November**, all Directors are giving consideration to their individual portfolios for the future, **succession plans** and recruitment of fresh thinking. Secretary Gavan will shortly have more details for all Member consideration as well....

Also, in late November, **our container of Medical Equipment ex DIK arrives in Sri Lanka** – with thanks to JJ, we had a phone hook-up this week with the recipient of this gear, Dr Palitha Bandara, the Provincial Director of Health Services. He is ever so grateful for this RCNB initiative.

Defibrillator training – as soon as we are physically able, an appropriate session will be held at Kew Golf Club.

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Club Visioning – this initiative aims to polish the crystal ball to enable a view forward for a few years – it is looking more hopeful to happen probably in the New Year. MaurieW and I will keep in touch with Chris Richardson from District.

Charity Golf Day in Feb 2020 - the decision to go/no go will be reviewed by next Board. It is possible a 'cut-down' event is still 'possible' sometime, depending on lockdown at Kew Golf Club.

At this stage, the **GP at Albert Park** is proceeding in March/April 2021 and our GP Committee are thinking thru all the volunteer and catering requirements, such as they can be, even at this early stage.

And in preparation for April 2021, our **R100 Project of a Centenary seat in the upgraded Balwyn Park is currently having a plaque agreed by Council....**click on the link to show and tell you more!

And all of that, plus more covered in 90 minutes last Monday!!!

Now back to Sergeant Estelle for a 'Who Am I' session.

This was an entertaining session hosted by Estelle. Each of Rob Hortin, Geoff Kneale and John Rennie had obviously spent considerable time researching the "Literacy and "Education" theme to come up with mystery characters. Very well done, thank you and who would believe that John Rennie was actually talking about John Rennie!!

Nino then announced Raffle #2 being meat and other delicacies from Boccaccio, Balwyn. To be drawn 8th October.

Jane then hosted our Guest Speaker, Anne Vranisan, Family & Relationship Services for Catholic Care. A great insight into Anne's career progression to her senior role today where the Covid environment has meant significant change to addressing client behaviours and practices required. Keep up the great work Anne.

President Greg then thanked Anne and everybody for another successful Meeting. The reminders are:

- Barry Cummings funeral arrangement will be known next week.
- The Board de-brief notes and way forward are for your information.
- If you can take over the handling of Egg/Sanitiser sales from Nino, please call me.
- End Polio Walk starts in October – register/sponsor by NEXT THURSDAY!!!
- Speakers program includes Dave Burt next week. Call out if you want/know/volunteer a Guest Speaker, please.

Have a great safe week, stay well and Open Opportunities as lockdown eases.....

President Greg