

PRESIDENT GREG'S UPDATE

25 February 2021

A big thank you to VP Tony Wells for deputising for me last week. A warm welcome to everybody:

- Our Guest Speaker, John Pesutto, Corporate lawyer, advisor, and columnist in The Age
- Our INDUCTEE Grant King and wife Corinne
- Neil Marshall's wife, Tricia
- Ken Maxfield
- My wife Jenny

This week we noted the passing of wonderful past Member Brian Hurnard. And I quote:

It is with great sadness that I advise of the passing this afternoon of respected past Rotarian, PP PHF Brian Hurnard at Eva Tilley. Brian was born in 1937 in the UK at the family home "Bramley Croft", village of Lexden, now a suburb of Colchester, Essex.

After a long and successful career with AMP, Brian & Areta transferred to Melbourne, where he was nominated for Membership of RCNB in 1989 by the late David Goldsmith (member 1984 – 2003). After retiring from AMP, Brian resigned from Rotary in 1993 to holiday in UK, piloting a canal long boat which he and Areta had faithfully restored for almost 2 years. Upon returning to Melbourne, Brian was re-inducted to RCNB in March 1996.

Brian received the President's Award at June 1999 Changeover; was Club President for 2003/04; Membership Director for 2004/05; Received PHF in 2006; Club Secretary 2006/2008; was instrumental in leading the Gardening Project and awarded a PH Sapphire in 2016. Brian was also District Secretary in 2009, during PDG Jim Studebaker's term.

A person who demonstrated a positive can-do attitude, Brian endeared himself in all that he, his family and the Club achieved during his wonderful 26 years of selfless service in Rotary and club leadership and life in general. Brian retired in 2016.

*Our thoughts and condolences are with Areta, Elizabeth, Andrew, Marea and families.
A moment of reflection was then observed.*

Kris and Maurie also let us know of a celebration of their late daughter Emily's Life at an orchard in Templestowe over the weekend. It was done in the style of an event Emily would have arranged herself.

Immediate relatives and closest friends who had been in contact during her 8-year battle with cancer, made up the 100 Covid allowed numbers, but there would have been many, many more without current restrictions. Their son Daniel will return to Auckland after flying in on the 9th to spend the final hours with the family and Emily.

Kris and Maurie have appreciated the many messages and condolence cards from our Rotary family and look forward to being among us all again. Love to you all *Kris and Maurie.*

So where was I last week? Simply re-charging my batteries after an extremely busy two months with the very detailed Aust Day event, arranging Club Meetings, attending a Cluster President's Meeting, chairing a very productive February Board Meeting, negotiating with District to finally get \$2342 back for our Sri Lanka Project and then heavily involved the very successful Golf Day. I needed a break as the immense detail of each of these seemingly 'comes with the territory' of being President and I sincerely appreciate the positive feedback and support being conveyed - just on that, any constructive feedback and offers to do more are always welcome, just talk to me face-to-face anytime.

I again want to publicly thank Greg Matthews and his golf team for the amazing Golf Day here two weeks ago – very, very detailed arrangements enabled fellowship, rivalry, laughs and jolly good time for all. Only just though as Victoria was locked down that evening!! The amount of funds raised was over \$13k.... *this equates to over 8 months of Sunday Market \$, probably 10 Bunnings BBQS, more than 15 Raffles, and is a wonderful result that is already funding several Community beneficiaries, without calling on the Voluntary Service Fund.* Thanks mate!!

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This week, I have been on a Roster campaign. Why?

Simply to provide all Members with the opportunity to Volunteer for the host of Community services that RCNB is proud to offer. And yes, I want to share the load of these activities with all Members. From now on, *Rosters will be refreshed on the "For Club Members" section of our Website each weekend and have a link from Grapevine to easily access the information. You only then need to contact the person nominated and reserve a spot.* Very easy, but necessary as there are several opportunities coming up. What Rosters do you look for?

1. **The Duty Roster** – our Sergeant Estelle coordinates the key volunteers to make our Meeting happen – yes, the Roster is on our Website. To assist you further, Estelle will email the nominated Volunteers on the Friday pre-Meeting to confirm their presence on the following Thursday.
2. **Pick up at 2nd Bite West Heidelberg at 8am Thursdays and deliver to Camcare in Camberwell.** Last week was Geoff Haddy, this morning was Jim Studebaker – call Garth for more info.
3. **Sunday Market** – last week was Jane, TedW, PeterE and me at short notice. This week is RobH, Janie and me. The Sunday Market earns us \$1600/month, so **I have a request. During March to June, there are 17 Sundays – if every one of our 60+ Members can find 3 hours on any one Sunday over those 4 months, that just about covers the 4 shifts per Sunday. Are you all up to it?? Let GeoffS know.**
4. **RCNB Gardening Project** – Fridays and Saturdays except in school holidays. Neil Marshall is handling this respected Community service and a reminder; it is more about Supervising the School students than extreme physical work – trust me. Last Saturday was Rowan & Cris Yudi, tomorrow is GeoffH, Janie, Tak and Ian Glenn, this Saturday is Janie again.
5. **BBQ's** – these have been the life blood of our Club for a very long time. Currently, there are opportunities on the Website for Sunday 21 March – MASH BBQ in aid of Lift the Lid, and Sunday 25 April - Bunnings. Call JohnMcB to Volunteer.
6. **And a Volunteer Expo is on Wednesday 17 March from 1-6pm at the Hawthorn Arts Centre – Rowan/I need some company in attracting Members – just let Ro/myself know if you are available, please.**
7. And there is a call out for all Cluster Club to assist with the RC Canterbury FORaMEAL Project of re-packing food sachets. This is a very successful Project, one that I would like to see us support by being able to pack some items. The date is probably Sunday 28 March – all tbc. Just let me know, - see Grapevine.

What is on the horizon?

- Homelessness Project at Servants,
- The Sri Lanka Project, now that we have received \$2,342 funding from District, is nominated for District Recognition,
- Our application for a small Grant has been submitted.
- GregR/Ro making big steps with the Speakers Program from next month – remember, let them know if you have suggestions.
- We are still on the lookout for an Assistant Treasurer, though.

It was then my pleasure to Induct Grant King as a Member of our Club. Grant and his wife Corinne live very close to by Tricia and Neil Marshall, who will be his ongoing Mentor. Grant joins Garth's Community Service team and is a very welcome addition to our Club. Please make yourselves known to Grant.

Sergeant Estelle then "stole the show" with a wonderful session identifying who really is *Mr Smooth at RCNB*. Despite a host of protests from other 'candidates', Geoff Steinicke gleefully accepted the title after Estelle very carefully noted the apparent virtues of Geoff's recent Health Tip on the day of love - Valentine's Day – hint, Chocolates, Oysters, Bananas, Pistachios. Our Guest Speaker was so impressed that he learnt something new. 😊

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I was then very delighted to introduce our Guest Speaker, John Pesutto, a person with an extensive record of service in politics and public policy. From 2014 to 2018, John was Victoria's Shadow Attorney General and the Member for Hawthorn in the Victorian Parliament. Prior to elective politics, John worked as Counsel to Premier Denis Naphine, Chief of Staff to the Health Minister and as a Senior Advisor to Premier Ted Baillieu. This was preceded by a period during which John operated his own consultancy with a focus on advising government departments and public sector agencies on governance and performance issues.

As a lawyer (graduating from the University of Melbourne in 1994 with commerce and law degrees), John spent many years in private legal practice with a focus on industrial relations and employment matters. John regularly appears in the media and he is currently writing a fortnightly column for a major newspaper. He is married to Betty and they have three daughters.

Well John did not disappoint us – his legal and political background, his obvious flair, knowledge, and experience together with a lively personality gave us a fascinating half hour, followed by some most interesting questions and observations. Indeed, his ability to answer a curly question from John McBride without saying yes or no is a true testimony to his outstanding capabilities!!

Next week, we have our very own **Philip Wade giving a practical session on Defib and CPR equipment**, what are they used for, how do they work and how important the correct use is. He will bring his own dummy.

Then, as a reminder on **Thursday 11 March, we will be Celebrating International Women's Day with partners** – will be a fun night!!

And a reminder that **John McBride is already looking for Volunteers for BBQ's** and I am looking for **each Member to find 3 hours on any Sunday in March-June to be at the Sunday Market. Give it some thought, please.**

Yes, we are a busy Club, join in, give us feedback anytime and have a great week.

President Greg