

PRESIDENT GREG'S UPDATE

27 May 2021

I welcomed everybody to our pre-lockdown Meeting. Let me say that I understand and appreciate Member's concerns over Covid and trust that everybody stays safe and well during lockdown, again.....

Thank you to everybody for observing the restrictions applying to visitors to the Kew Golf Club and hospitality venues - masks are mandatory as is QR Check-in as this provides a database for contact tracers to quickly text every visitor in the unlikely event of being necessary.

For next week, our Meeting will be on ZOOM, given the closure of Kew Golf Club.

We welcomed **Karen Dunwoodie and Nicole Brown** as Guest Speakers on Project Dignity. This week's Grapevine gave us some background on Project Dignity.

We were also delighted to welcome Guests:

- ✓ **Joseph Yap and wife, Gina (soon to be New Members).**
- ✓ **Deborah Cravan** - guest of Rowan McClean.

And a special welcome to JJ, the busy working man. Great to see you.
And a very, very special welcome to Vice-President Tony Wells....

Thank you to the many Members who Zoomed into the **District Assembly** last Saturday morning – always enlightening and the interactive breakout sessions extremely well put together. The District Secretary Elect can take credit for much of this – thanks Jane.

Last week I mentioned that we had received three resignations – Duncan Ansell, Steven Greatorex and Adam Hillary. Duncan would like to say a few words in coming weeks.

Just on Membership, our Director Jim and others need congratulating on attracting new Members to our Club. Yes, there have been some offsetting resignations, all of which will be considered when Subscriptions are determined at our June Board Meeting.

Also, last week, I gave you an update on our Board Meeting. **I meant to mention Australian Rotary Health support.** Our Club fundraising supports two major Rotary Foundations. The first, I mentioned last week is the Rotary Foundation to which we recently contributed \$10,000. The second is Australian Rotary Health whom we have supported in many ways over the years – through a three-year commitment for a PhD scholar, through Lift the Lid campaigns, as principal recipient from some of our golf days, and, importantly, via your week-by-week contributions to the silver-pot in support of indigenous scholarships. This year our contribution has been more modest but, as we've re-commenced contributions via the silver-pot, the Club's 2020-21 donation to ARH has been increased from \$1,000 to \$3,000.

An overview of the activities the Club continues to be involved with:

- **Sunday Market**– Thank you for, 23/5 – Garth, Maurie & Kris, Jane **30/5 – MARKET CLOSED** so day off for Tak, Sue, Grant, Duncan, 6/6 – Grant, Janie, GregC
- **RCNB Gardening Project** – Pari and her The Camcare team are so grateful for our 'making a difference; to their Kitchen Garden in recent weeks – they now want us to do more!! Thanks to GeoffH, Lis, family friends and others. Fri 28/5 – **GARDENING DEFERRED**, sorry GeoffH, Janie, Fri 4/6 – GeoffH, Rob Hortin, Ian Glenny, **Sat 5/6 – no takers yet.....Neil is here!!**
- **2nd Bite to Camcare Camberwell** – 27/5 - GregC 3/6 – GeoffH, 10/6 - GregC
- **BBQ's** – next bbq 10th July, then 8th August.

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On the horizon are:

- ❖ **Next week's Meeting 3rd June WILL BE ON ZOOM 6.15 for 6.30pm**– Guest Speaker is RI Director **Dr. Jessie Harman**.
- ❖ **Thursday 10th June – Michael Gorton AM** plus presentation of Essay Awards
- ❖ **Thursday 17th June - DGE Amanda Wendt** plus 4 inductions, plus an update by Interact students – a huge evening.
- ❖ **Thursday 24th June – Changeover night here at Kew Golf Club** – book via Hugo link. AND a big thank you to Bronwen for her amazing decoration plans for Changeover.
- ❖ **Saturday 10th July** – Bunnings BBQ – see website to volunteer.
- ❖ **Sunday 8th August 12 – 3pm**– our Rotary Boroondara Cluster is having the Opening of the **R100 Yarra Bend Playground – RCNB** is providing the Sausage Sizzle.
- ❖ One for the diary...22-24 October – GregM has planned a weekend at Camp Getaway.

In the past two Meetings we have recognized Members for 'Service above Self' for contributing funds to the Foundation. All Members were Awarded an appropriate Paul Harris Fellow pin.

This week was the opportunity to recognize **Tony Wells** whose life demonstrates a shared purpose with the objectives of the Rotary Foundation. Tony's contribution to the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is allaying suffering, improving living conditions, and providing educational opportunities to young people somewhere in the world. This is a truly selfless action.

I had great pleasure in presenting Tony with the Paul Harris Fellow +3 lapel pin. Please accept congratulations and sincere appreciation for your commitment to our common goals of world understanding and peace.

Sergeant Estelle then updated us with Anniversaries and birthdays and 'popular' fines. The Meeting also noted with a huge amount of empathy, a number of Members unable to travel and others locked down in Hamilton Island, Canberra, and other hardship places outside Victoria..... fines will be payable on their safe return!!

Jeanette Leigh then hosted Karen Dunwoodie and Nicole Brown on Project Dignity. This was quite an eye-opening presentation for many, given the hardships being endured, the legal loopholes that exist and the extremely poor quality of life for the massive numbers of people seeking asylum in Australia. Thank you again to Karen & Nicole for sharing Project Dignity with us.

Just a reminder that bookings are open for our Changeover night on 24th June – see Grapevine for the usual link – and that next week's Meeting is on ZOOM.

As we head into Winter officially next Tuesday, stay warm, stay well, stay connected and as always, continue to enjoy all of the Opportunities that RCNB has Open to you.

President Greg 😊