

PRESIDENT GREG'S UPDATE

28 January 2021

OH, WHAT A NIGHT!!!! 😊😊

Our best roll-up since pre-Covid of 42 wonderful people who were treated to lively fellowship with guests, truly great speakers, hearing from an OAM recipient plus very enjoyable hospitality. It was certainly a real pleasure to host such a Meeting - thank you everybody. A brief recap:

Guests

- Our Guest Speaker - **Greg King** who is a presenter on Rotary in Action Radio Program
- Interactor from Balwyn High– **Maria Freesz**
- **Grant King** – neighbour of Neil Marshall
- **Joel Cohen** -a Guest of Rowan
- **Ken Maxfield** – needs no introduction....and
- **Bernie Smith OAM**

Our Community Service activities roll along.....

- 2nd Bite – last week was me, this morning was Kris and Maurie Walters.
- Sunday Market – John Burley & I enjoyed a warmish morning... please keep GeoffS happy by filling more dates.
- Servants BBQ last Thursday was exceptional and a great community Service that CEO Amanda Donohoe is extremely grateful for. RCNB certainly made a difference and looked smart. Thank you to everybody who made it such a wonderful night. Imre, PhilF, PeterD, Don T, Janie, Maurie, Tony.

Aust Day celebration Victoria Park last Tuesday was again showcasing what RCNB can do:

- Ro/JimS had several membership inquiries at our RCNB marquee.
- Imre/John and team were very noticeable with our BBQ trailer selling Snags/onions – takings exceeded \$1200...very nice indeed. Imre, JohnMcB, Sue, GregM, GeoffH, TedW, Brian, Maurie, JohnB, JJ, SteveG, PhilF, Estelle, Kris and MargaretW.
- Yours truly was behind the scenes with Entertainers, then assisted by some devoted of the RCNB team to Bump out after a long day.
- My sincere thanks to JimS for being with me on the organising team – done good!
- Generally, a worthwhile day, considering the immense planning by 7 Cluster clubs (14 people) since late November. Pity about the Melbourne weather deterring a crowd but thankfully the day was underpinned financially by the National Australia Day Council for \$20k.

And Australia Day saw several our friends receive recognition:

- **Bernie Smith** – OAM for service to the community of North Balwyn, and to cricket.
- **Prof Amanda Leach** – AM for significant service to ear disease research, and to Indigenous child health.
- **David Winter** – Citizen of the Year for Whitehorse
- **Greg Fithall**, RC St. Arnaud receive Ambulance Service Medal.
- **Jennifer Steinicke** – OAM for service to botanic gardens.

Bernie Smith then spoke to us in his inimitable style, thanking us all – he is a Legend!!

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Other activities:

- ✓ Greg Matthew and others are finalising the arrangements for another great Golf Day on Fri 12 Feb. Please put your hand up when asked to 'chip in' with some assistance.
- ✓ Neil Marshall is working with schools on the Garden roster and the associated Covid-safe conditions.
- ✓ And coming up is our Board Meeting on Monday 8 Feb.....we will talk about the Attendance procedure for notifying Hugo for each Thursday -no change until we advise.
- ✓ And to all of those who may go unnoticed – a special thank you as well.

Last week, I mentioned being **conscious of so many activities requiring Members to know where the various Rosters sit** – there has been positive and negative feedback. This has been a positive change from the old-style Grapevine to now have a link in each Grapevine to the Volunteering Activities. This may take a couple more clicks of the Mouse to enable you to see the current Rosters on the Website.

This week, I sought some more hands up please.

1. John Gartlan's role of Speakers is now vacant, being covered by me. **Ro & Greg Ross** will now tic-tak on this.
2. Set up role of Barry Cummings needs someone to focus on it. **Gavan** will fill Barry's ample shoes.
3. With Adam Hillary away, Geoff Haddy would appreciate an Assistant Treasurer to cover times he is away – no takers as yet. Please talk to me or GeoffH asap!!

I really appreciate Ro, GregR and Gavan stepping in to share the work in these important positions.

Sergeant Estelle then highlighted Anniversaries, and Happy Fines – great camaraderie, as always.

Maria Freesz, our Balwyn High Interactor told us about surviving lockdown, what the Interactors achieved last year and their plans going forward. She also presented a report from a fellow Interactor Fearghas, who was unable to attend - wonderful words spoken fluently by Maria, thank you.

Our Guest Speaker, Greg King, presenter on Rotary in Action Radio Program was then hosted and introduced by Rob Head. In what has been a fascinating journey, Greg talked about his upbringing and family, his initial hobby of radio and now the passion for Rotary. An entertaining presentation from a colourful personality. If members would like to talk to Greg about maybe becoming an announcer, let me know and I can pass on Greg's contact details.

In closing, all the Guests were thanked, Bernie was congratulated (again...) and the forward program of talented Speakers was refreshed to all – if in doubt, see Grapevine.

Finally, it was terrific to see our very busy RCNB Members certainly being visible in the Community in the past couple of weeks. Let us encourage more of these important connections going forward and enjoy Opening Opportunities.

Have a very pleasant week 😊.

President Greg