

## PRESIDENT GREG'S UPDATE

17 June 2021

**We were honoured to welcome DG Philip Archer to our Meeting** – the busiest Rotarian I know who jumped at the opportunity of being with us at short notice, as he will also be here at next week's **Changeover. Remember 5.45 for 6.15pm**

We were also delighted to welcome our **Inductees Gulser, Dean, Joseph and Neil** – I wear the gold chain only for special occasions and this week was very special to have four worthy individuals join our Rotary family.

Joining us also were two students from **Balwyn High School, Isabelle and Meththa** to talk to us about the **Interact Club**.

First up, Greg Ross welcomed our **North Balwyn schools' essay winners from the past two years, Kevin and Nadira** and their proud families - I continue to be in awe of the imagination of these Year 6 students with their clear concepts 'what's ahead' when challenged with the topic of "what will my life be like in 20 years' time?". Indeed, Nadira's prospect of life on Epsilon and being able to reflect back to what life on Earth was really like was such a thought-proving read – well done!! Our thanks go to Greg Ross and Peter Downton for the tireless coordination involved in building this initiative over the two years with the five local schools. Splendid work.

Estelle then hosted our two **Interactors from Balwyn High School, Isabelle and Meththa** who gave the most mature, pro-active, and well-presented update on their various amazing activities in the community. Again, such a powerful demonstration to us all of what our youth are achieving now and plan for the future. Thank you so very much for joining the meeting and for Estelle's hosting and guidance. *FOOTNOTE – at DG Philip Archer's Morning Tea on Zoom on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June, has made mention of how impressed he was to attend our RCNB Meeting and witness such maturity and great prospects for the future, having heard our Interactors - take a bow, team.*

### **My report covered a number of items:**

- ❖ Next, Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June we have a Joint Board Meeting by Zoom to accommodate 16 members.
- ❖ Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June – **Changeover night at Kew Golf Club** – LIVE at Kew now that restrictions are eased to allow a cap of seventy-five. FOOTNOTE - as at Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June, we have reached seventy-five attendees, thanks for your support. Hugo has a Wait List for any late inquiries – understandably, anyone on the Wait List will be contacted if a cancellation occurs.
- ❖ Our community activities are going well:
  - **Sunday Market**– BACK last week thankfully as the lockdown meant that we missed out mixing with the community and earning \$400 for each weekend cancelled - please keep an eye on the Roster and let GeoffS know of your availability, particularly for the weeks that seem way ahead.
  - **RCNB Gardening Project** – back on Friday 18th June - please continue to contact Neil with dates you are available. You will be pleased to know that our Gardening work and funds provided at Camcare in recent weeks are truly appreciated:

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*Dear Geoff and the Team at the Rotary Club of North Balwyn,*

*It has been wonderful to experience the continuity of your support of many years - your generosity of time, labour and monetary support from the very inception of the Camcare Kitchen Garden. In working closely with you, the school students of the Rotary Gardens Project, and various members of RCNB, the ripple effect and impact on our local community is inspiring – real synergy through the partnership with Barbara and the Garden Team!*

*Our clients deeply appreciate this space, not just for the vegetable produce but for the sense of safety, nurturing and belonging they experience.*

*A very heartfelt thank you!*

*Sincerely,*

*Pari Sanyu – Manager Community -CAMCARE*

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Bite to Camcare Camberwell** – continues on, with John Magor on his maiden voyage there on Thur 17<sup>th</sup> June, thank you.
- **A new one.** You will recall that I mentioned our funding of RIMERN, a DIK 'look-alike" in Brunswick - Rob Head and Peter Sutherland visited the new site on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June and all looks good already.
- ❖ Sadly, we bid farewell to Duncan & Jane Ansell after over 20 years of extremely loyal service in almost every aspect of our Club. We sincerely thank Duncan and Jane for being such loyal Rotarians and trust that we keep seeing you both from time-to-time. Duncan then thanked all at RCNB for a long, interesting and happy association over the many years.
- ❖ We would also like to advise Members that our ever-popular Member JJ is re-locating next month for a couple of years and has reluctantly advised us of his resignation. We would welcome JJ back anytime upon his return, maybe late next year.

**DG Philip Archer** then very eloquently shared some insights into his year as DG, one where he enjoyed opening Opportunities in the face of the challenges presented to us all. It is truly inspiring to be reminded of the vast array of beneficial projects that D9800 is championing, for which we are grateful to have Philip at the helm.

Going forward, Philip has three main focus areas going forward:

1. **Youth** – already at this Meeting we have seen great examples of Youth in action – the essay writers and the Interactors. The desire is that these amazing students, their families, schools and friends are ambassadors of Rotary in the future.
2. **Homelessness** – too often, homelessness is the pit into which people fall when there seems no other option in life. The focus has to be more around prevention of this pit increasing, whilst leaving the professional carers to solve the contributing factors. Rotary can best encourage people to be employed, live as comfortably as possible and stay connected with the world.
3. **Foundation** – this is the financial engine room of Rotary and needs the ongoing support of Rotarians and Clubs to continue their vital role of being able to assist funding of truly beneficial projects and opportunities.

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**INDUCTIONS** - it was then my privilege and pleasure to welcome into membership in our Club, four persons whom we believe have the qualities of character and leadership required of a good Rotarian:

**Gulser Wells**

**Dean Wells**

**Joseph Yap (and his wife Gina)**

**Neil Dalrymple (and his wife Meagan)**

**To each, the hand of Rotary fellowship was extended, A Dinner Badge presented, a Rotary lapel badge provided and a RCNB "goody bag" of treasured items given.**

**The Meeting stood and welcomed the four inductees into the RCNB family.**

Almoner Eileen then updated the Meeting on Jo Wells' move to Eva Tilley – both Jo and Tony and their family are in our thoughts.

I then thanked everybody for attending the Meeting, especially DG Philip, and I again congratulated the four new inductees and partners for joining the RCNB family. Looking ahead, we are currently easing out of lockdown from midnight last Thursday, planning ahead for next week's Changeover and tolerating Melbourne's weather – what a resilient lot!!

As this was our last Meeting before next week's Changeover, I would really like to acknowledge all of our Club Members/Friends and many many contacts who make this such a wonderful Rotary Club – sure, a challenging year in many respects but everybody has toughed it out, thankfully and opened many new Opportunities. We look forward to a big celebration of the year at next week's changeover when we welcome Maurie and his team into their year ahead.

Stay warm, stay well, stay connected and as always, continue to enjoy all of the Opportunities that RCNB has Open to you.

President Greg 😊