

Tim Piper – Guest Speaker on 15 April

Tim Piper AM, the Victorian head of the Australian Industry Group, started by mentioning that Host Rowan McClean had been a mentor to him in the confectionary industry, in which Tim is currently world Vice-President. He also mentioned that Russell Cooper had been on his industry board, representing the water industry.

In complimenting the work that our Rotary club is doing in Vietnam, Tim told how much that country had learned from the SARS pandemic in dealing now with COVID-19. Vietnam has had only 25 deaths and around 1,000 cases, far fewer than in most countries.

One of the employment challenges Tim is trying to address is the difficulty Australian/African people have in gaining employment. Some infrastructure jobs have been made available, including 15 Afro-Australians (between 30 and 45 years) who are working as bus drivers. Tim emphasised that we must have an inclusive community and that all young people need to believe they have a future in which they can achieve their goals.

Government decisions impacting on business during COVID have kept Tim particularly busy. Manufacturing is currently going strongly. Australians have not been travelling overseas but they have been buying here heavily. The construction industry has also been going gangbusters. Tim added that during COVID companies have been and remain unwilling to do interstate trips, while the threat of sudden state border closures exist.

Tim made further observations about the pressure the federal government is under, having had to deal with gender issues and vaccine shortages. He also talked about how freight costs have blown out and that there is currently no ship idle in the world.

The members at the meeting were joined by visitors representing local traders from Greythorn and Kew and also the Presidents from the Rotary Clubs of Balwyn, Camberwell and Canterbury. All enjoyed the presentation by Tim Piper.

Another great night at Rotary North Balwyn

Greg Ross