

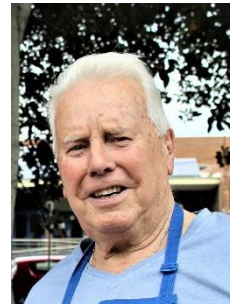
Meeting report Wednesday September 2<sup>nd</sup>

Apologies: Shraddha Sharma, Anne McMahon, Len Seddon, Geoff Cawsey, Cody Bettanin, Ted Frank, Mick Lawn

Visitors: Michael Donnelly, President RC Keilor East and Ginny Billson, PP Keilor East, Carolina Sevcikova.

President Anne welcomed all and gave a Welcome to Country. She acknowledged visitors.

**Lesley acknowledged Len Seddon who celebrated 30 years of Rotary membership yesterday.**



**Peter Cribb acknowledged and thank Michael and Ginny for the efforts of Keilor East with RORP.**

**Guest Speaker Matiu Bush.**

*Matiu has a history of work in infectious diseases and as a Clinical Charge Nurse at Peter Mac and as a systems strategist at RDNS {Bolton Clark}. He has a master's degree in public health and is a Board Member at Better Care Victoria.*



*Recently he has worked in the Health Innovation Lab at RMIT and lately as Clinical Lead in overseeing hotel quarantine for COVID.*

*Locally, he is the founder of One Good Street and the TrioBike for One Good Ride. He has focussed on addressing loneliness and isolation in the community especially with the elderly.*

Matiu acknowledged the welcome and advised that with the reduction in students in the tertiary sector, and his role at RMIT, he 'fell' into the hotel quarantine sector.

He acknowledged the difficulties and challenge faced by Government and the Department of Health in that they had to 'pull together' hotel quarantine within 48 hours, a task which would normally be planned over months.

Victoria has 16 hotels involved and they have managed over 20,000 people since the commencement. It is the first line of defence and whilst it was not perfectly controlled, it has worked. 10% of the returned travellers tested positive to Coronavirus and within 14 days they should be clear. Being positive does not necessarily mean they are shedding the virus.

In some hotels, upto 13 different groups were involved in managing returnees including doctors, nurses, pharmacists and he was involved in coordinating them and the sanitisation and safety.

Regarding Australians still overseas, there has been some criticism of them as not returning earlier, but there are always reasons eg. Work, job contracts, funds, family or caring for others. Another 20,000 have registered to return but incoming limits and costs of flights are making this hard. There are about 100,000 still overseas who will want to return as countries struggle to cope or the virus returns in another wave or mutation.

Many of the returned travellers are very stressed and may not have been able to return prior. Some of them lost their jobs and homes and funds.

Other countries are using different methods to contain the virus for example Singapore uses an ankle tracker and home quarantine.

Some countries are doing widespread antibody testing through blood tests.

### **Sam asked about testing, the live virus and shedding.**

The current nose and throat swab identifies live virus. The blood tests IgG and IgM identify antibodies.

IgG antibodies develop within seven to 10 days after symptoms of COVID-19 begin. They antibodies remain in the blood after an infection has passed and indicate that you have had COVID-19 in the recent past and have developed antibodies that may protect you from future infection.

IgM is usually the first antibody produced by the immune system when a virus attacks. A positive IgM test shows that you may have been infected and that your immune system has started responding to the virus. When IgM is detected you may still be infected, or you may have recently recovered from a COVID-19 infection.

The current indications are that immunity may only last 3 months.

There are several promising vaccine trials in process. One is **BromAc** which is already used in cancer treatment and is based on pineapple stem; others attack the COVID protein spike. The thing with trials though is that a drug may work in a petri dish, on mice and chimpanzees but not work on humans.

Asked about the spread from quarantine, Matiu referenced cultural and behavioural factors which may explain the spread in abattoirs, and with some backgrounds where communal eating, socialising and sharing are the norm. He also mentioned that many community transfers occurred in lunchrooms where workers did not have their masks on.

The fatigue in emergency management is huge. Many of these workers fell straight into COVID after the bushfire season and have been working at 110% for 8 months or more.

Matiu believes it will be 18 months before the virus is suppressed through a vaccine. And it depends on the vaccine.

Keep wearing masks, washing your hands and practising social distancing as much as possible.

Thank you Matiu.

### **Sergeant**

Lyn Borghouts then ran the quiz – which was an honesty based show of hands about who was wearing 1. Rotary colours, 2. A Rotary logo and 3. The Rotary Flemington name. Several passed steps 1 & 2 but Josie won by finding a folder with the club name on it. Betty wrote the words on a piece of paper, very clever both of you. Anne had made a pottery echidna toothpick holder and will deliver to Josie {it is in the 5km limit}

Betty then spun the wheel for the attendee prize for a face mask made by Anne – choice of black or print. Edith was the lucky winner but donated the prize back when it went to Josie again. <https://wheelofnames.com/>

### **Art Show**

John Elston then reported on progress with the Art Show and showed the draft Gallery247 page. Hoping for the best, preparing for the worst for late March 2021.

### **RORP**

Lyn Borghouts the shared the new RORP video which has been prepared for us by Nathan, a media student. She, Peter and Shradd are continuing to edit for release soon.

### **District**

Michael Donnelly, in his role as Assistant Governor then mentioned 2 items from the District Governor.

1. The District Governor will meet with all members and clubs in Gateway East and Gateway West on 7<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm by zoom.
2. Morning Tea with the DG on Saturday at 10am <https://www.trybooking.com/BKXUJ>

Board meeting next Tuesday September 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

Meeting closed 8.58am