

FITZROY ROTARY CLUB

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR BOARD MEETING ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2020

Since the last board meeting I have been to numerous Rotary meetings organised by the District and/or the Zone. I don't own a vehicle, but if I had used an Uber driver to convey me to these various meetings, he/she would be wealthy person. All meetings were recorded and are available on the My Rotary website. The meetings include:

- **The Zone 8 conference on 20 September 2020**, from Alice Springs, where Jennifer Jones, the Rotary International president elect for the year 2022-2023 was introduced. Ms Jones will be the first female president of Rotary International, subject to any challenge. I must confess I missed the first day of this conference.

This second day of the conference addressed issues such as:

- The ability of Rotary to adapt and be flexible.
 - Investigating why people join Rotary, and the answer appears to be service and fellowship. **We were asked to inquire from our members what they want from Rotary.**
 - An important comment was **"in order to live in the society you want to, you have to help build it"**. A very worthwhile communication.
 - With the eradication of polio in Nigeria, Africa is now polio free, and the only countries known with polio are Pakistan and Afghanistan. (but I understand some case have been identified in PNG). RI still see a polio eradication as a priority, and the Gates Foundation has committed to match funding on a 2:1 basis, meaning, for example, if Rotary raises \$50m, the Gates Foundation will contribute \$100m.
 - The importance of communicating the projects of/by Rotary in the community was again emphasised; it is not about bragging, but about alerting people to know about Rotary who will then wish to become involved in Rotary, which means more funds and more projects.
- **Morning tea with the DG on Saturday 5 September.**
 - Phillip Archer reported that the \$700,000 raised by Rotary for bushfire funding has been distributed and approximately \$750,000 raised for the drought appeal was disbursed.
 - Gabe Hall spoke on Peace Builder clubs and peace projects.

- Fabienne Nichola spoke on “the open table”, where clubs are involved with distributing food which would have otherwise gone to food waste.
- **NB. All members should be receiving invitations to these morning teas with the DG. The last meeting had 120 participants. The next meeting is at 10am tomorrow morning.**
- **Two membership meetings chaired by Peter Frueh** were conducted on 12 September and 8 August.
 - The last meeting spoke of **satellite clubs** as a means of encouraging, particularly young people, who may not want to attend meetings with the cost of a meal, to become members of Rotary and to focus on projects.
 - Matt McLeod, from Rotary club in New Zealand, spoke about the **project pipeline** – getting a list of projects together and prioritising them so that members know what they want to do next.
 - **NB. Our club does not have a membership officer.** I once again extend the invitation for any member to step forward and take up this role.
- **Rotary District Meeting on 23 August 2020** attended by DG, assistant governors and presidents.
 - Taverners Australia, a volunteer organisation, has offered Rotary 50% of the price of tickets sold by Rotary clubs.
- **Morning tea with the DG on 22 August 2020.**
 - The speaker presented the 11 habits of optimism from the **Centre of Optimism founded** by Victor Perton.
 - The **Rotary International Melbourne Emergency Relief Network** has applied for tax deductible status, and is looking for a warehouse of 500 square metres in South Melbourne/inner Melbourne area, and a truck with a hydraulic lift. RIMERN is seeking donations from clubs. RIMERN will be focusing on community services, and particularly families in need and connecting them and individuals with support agencies.
- **Our grant to Fitzroy Primary**

Since the last board meeting, Fitzroy Rotary donated \$2,000 to Fitzroy Primary which was used for the purchase of four computers for children in need. The donation was timely and just before the Stage 4 lockdown. The principal, Angela Richmond,

explained that many of the children in the flats have to share laptops with siblings, which makes studying difficult, and online learning near impossible.

Members should have received emails with exclamation of thanks from the school's bursa and Principal.

- Vijay Susarla has resigned as the assistant governor for our heritage cluster. Our new AG is Graeme Hope. Graeme will attend our meeting on 28 September.
- Vijay and John Walmsley gave an interesting talk on water and **sanitation hygiene projects in Timor Leste**. Members should have received the email attaching a description of the project in that Rotary Networker.
- We have had interesting guest speakers each fortnight and thanks to Phil for organising the links.
- Our club will be applying for a **scholarship grant with District for two students at Fitzroy High School**. Our application will be for the maximum - \$1,000 from District, which will we match see last Board meeting. District is only offering 10 scholarships to be distributed throughout the whole district so if we are unsuccessful, hopefully our club will be able to contribute \$2,000 to help educate two children ,in need, through years 11 and 12.