

Notes from meeting held on June 1st, 2022

Meeting was opened Neil Briggs who advised that he is a past President of the Club and will be the Chairman for this evening's proceedings and he is delighted to see such a great attendance this evening, particularly as the weather is so bracing.

Neil then introduced our many guests to the meeting and requested they wave as he calls their name so they can be seen.

Firstly: the family and friends of our President Derek Ryan being

Jennifer Ryan, Ben Febretto, Natalie Feehan, Russell and Glenys Chambers and Charlotte and Peter England

then

The family and friends of our incoming Present Brian Stacy who are

Eliza Stacey, Julian Stacey, Katherine McBride and Liz and Alan Seward

Friends of Rotary and Honorary and past members

Andrea Galgozi-Kratochvil & Milos, Carmel Lee, Yvette & Peter Cobobina, Wayne Harding, Barry & Elaine Nichols and a special welcome to John & Terri Darnell who are returning to us after illness – great to see you both and we cannot forget the partners of Rotarians who always deserve to be acknowledged due to their invaluable assistance to the club – We welcome you all and trust that you have a great evening with us.

Our Club was chartered on the 15th September 1961, this being our 62nd year of operation. A changeover dinner has been held every year since 1962, except for last year when COVID intervened making this our 59th changeover dinner.

The changeover meeting of the club is an important annual part of our procedures as it allows for the outgoing President to reflect on his or her time as the leader of the team and also introduces the incoming President who will propose his or her plans for the forthcoming year.

This passing of the baton is fundamental to Rotary Clubs as it allows for new and fresh ideas to reinvigorate the members in their quest to provide 'service above self'
so let's commence proceedings

At the beginning of our meetings it is usual to propose a toast to our great country and to our club. We do this to acknowledge that we are part of the community, both locally and worldwide.

Could you please be upstanding and charge your glasses to Australia and the Rotary Club of Sorrento.

Another tradition we maintain is to give thanks for the bounty we enjoy. Rotary is both secular and also inclusive of all individual beliefs and this invocation and the opportunity to reflect will be livered this evening by Rotarian John Darnell.

John proceeded to thank the Lord for another successful Rotary year, despite change of venue and the problems of the pandemic. Thanks to President Derek who has done a super job and here's to the incoming President and his team and thanks also for the great meal we are about to receive.

President Derek was then invited to come to the microphone and he also welcomed all members, families and guests before inviting Andrea Galgoczi-Kratochvil and Milos to come to the microphone and Andrea was thereby inducted into the RCS as a member. Pres. Derek then presented her with a welcome folder, badge and pin

Andrea thanked Pres. Derek and the RCS and said she was very much looking forward to her involvement in the Club.

REPORTS

Peter Fahl/Salvo Collection

Received a call yesterday from Neil Elliott from the Salvos to say he was happy with our collection which was \$3014.45 and to thank you all.

SECRETARY'S REPORT/MAZ TONKIN

'HELLO'

Two and a half years ago I was sitting in a group at our meeting at the Sorrento Golf Club where PP Ted Moore was wringing his hands over the fact that he did not have a President Elect.

Spontaneously Derek Ryan put his hand up to be President but he would like it to be not only for 1 but 2 years.

Hallelujah!! Lucky us.

We knew he would be good, a professional person who was a Forensic Accountant in his previous life and of course as Treasurer our books had never been in such great shape.

Little did we know that these 2 years would be concurrent with the deadly COVID and the world in strife, nothing would be normal.

Such a difficult and complicated time to be President of a club, particularly a club that meets twice a month and still wants to fundraise.

We all observe often the discipline Derek has in his daily life and we have been privileged to have such a motivated and disciplined leader of our club but how were we to move forward and still have a club.

Well we all became proficient on zoom and met often. Derek would have Jim Uhe on zoom downstairs, connect Denys Nelson and then race back for the meetings. The speaker program continued and we even had a wine tasting on line.

Inductions of new members were held on his front veranda or on the beach where no-one could see us. He had the video set up and we would show it at a zoom meeting, it was really complicated. A dinner meeting was a bonus.

On top of this Robin was unwell and his devotion to her and her recovery while still trying to make things happen for us was an indication of the caliber of the man. He made it a fulltime job, such a hard worker.

Negotiating with the sign writers, installing the signs for events, almost single handling establishing the Lift the Lid Walk for mental health – early morning starts.

He cares very much for the welfare of our members, quietly making phone calls, following up with caring visits, offering to do chores. Derek has an ageing mother of whom he takes great care and is obviously a wonderful father by the presence of his children.

Derek can finish his reign as President knowing that the club is intact and happy, we are still raising money for our community and he was a great success. He was the right man for the job during these weird times. We are happy that this great resource of Derek will not be lost and he will continue in our club.

As Secretary I had reason to communicate often and found Derek to be courteous and a gentleman at all times, it was a privilege for me and all members to work with you.

We owe you a huge debt of gratitude
and

I have been nominated by the RCS to make a presentation to you and present you with the prestigious Paul Harris Fellow Award.

For our visitors, Rotary was established by Paul Harris. This award is in his honor and presented to those Rotarians that have shown that they are prepared to go that extra mile in support of people in need. This award is an emphatic acknowledgement of the appreciation shown for tangible and significant assistance given by you for the better understanding and friendly relations among people of the world.

Derek Ryan you are being recognize today as a Paul Harris Fellow. We appreciate the way in which your life exemplifies the objectives of the Rotary Club of Sorrento.

It gives me great pleasure to present to you on behalf of the Rotary Club of Sorrento and Rotary Foundation the emblems of a Paul Harris Fellow, the certificate and lapel pin.

Congratulations to our newest Paul Harris Fellow Derek Ryan.

Pres. Derek replied:

Thanks to the Board and Maz for giving me this award. It has been my privilege to serve as the Club President over the last 2 years.

Little did I know when I accepted back in March 2020 that it would be so difficult. In the ensuing 2 years we have had a total of 263 days in lockdown which represents approximately 36% of my time as President. It is not just the days in lockdown but the fear

and trepidation of possible contracting COVID that is in the minds of all Victorians that prevents them from fully participating in events and functions.

You may remember that in my report last year I described the first year as a year from HELL.

Well this feeling marginally improved over the last 12 months and the Club's resilience has strengthened as we actively sought to circumvent COVID where ever possible with it's consequential lockdowns and the cancellation of fundraising events.

Thanks to the many members and 'friends of Rotary' who have assisted us in successfully running the Art Show, the Lift the Lid Walk for mental health research, the Golf Day and the Sausage sizzles over the last 6 months.

These events could not have been held without your support and the enthusiastic guidance from Brian Stacey and others. We owe you all our heartfelt thanks.

Now to the Future:

Over the last 2 years we have introduced various changes and improvements in the way we conduct our Club and it's activities and I list a few of these major changed that we have taken:

- 1. Club image:** We introduced new signage on Pt. Nepean Road and Melbourne Road to welcome all cars/drivers to the Sorrento township.
2. We have modernized all of our event banners and posters advertising our events. We now possess 6 real estate signs that we can recycle with event details on them to save costs in future years.
3. We have introduced a new administrative system for the Art Show and this has proven to work satisfactorily for our January 2022 Art Show, we just need to work on getting the financial results generated and reconcile quicker next year.
4. We are currently working on updating our website to make it use friendly with more current and informative data.
5. We are currently working on changing the format of the weekly Bulletin to make it more current and visually appealing.
6. We have introduced 2 new major events, they are the Lift the Lid Walk and the Motor Show. Our first Motor Show was to be held on 31st October however we had to cancel the event due to a COVID crisis just one week ahead of its scheduled date. Many thanks to Parks Victoria for assisting us with dates and event support in getting these 2 events off the ground. Our first Motor Show will now be held on 30th October, 2022.

We also tried to organize a Luncheon in October to raise funds for mental health. Maybe this year we will not be restricted by lockdowns.

7. We have introduced a new system to thank guest speakers from charitable organizations by giving the charity of their choice a \$100 donation. This donation is in lieu of a Club biro or a bottle wine.

8. Zoom meetings were introduced in early 2020 and they have continued to be held as necessary to keep the Club active and members up to date when we were not allowed to meet in situ due to COVID rules.

9. We introduced the BYS as a new venue for our Club meetings and it is proving to be a worthwhile change. The atmosphere and views here are stunning so enjoy this evening.

Membership

*Doug Young – left after 42 years of service and we wish Doug all the best in his travels

*James Lee after 42 years of service

*Wayne Harding after 20 years of service – left to care for Brenda

*Susan Bissinger who left to become a Councillor with the MPSC

*John Crough who is still an active ‘Friend of Rotary’ and helps out on regular sausage sizzles and all other major events

*Peter Royals

*Robert Barns

Ted Moore, our immediate Past President relocated to Pokolbin in NSW in 2021 and despite this relocation Ted has indicated that he wishes to remain a full Club member again in the 2022/23 year.

Merger of Districts 9820 and 9810 to form a new District 9815 from 1st July 2024

Over the next 12 months we will learn more about this proposed merger.

The new District will include some 2000+ Rotarians in over 80 Rotary clubs and 6 Rotaract clubs and will be known as District 9815 because the number 9815 is halfway between 9810 and 9820. D9810 covers the area from the ‘Bay to the Hills’ in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne from Chelsea to Healesville, while D9820 serves the Mornington Peninsula and from Dandenong to East Gippsland.

Thanks for the Memories

To our major and minor sponsors (Coastcom, Kay & Burton, Ventura Bus Lines, Mitre 10, Bank of Bendigo & MPSC) I thank you all as without your support the events we have held over the last 6 months would not have been as successful as they were.

To all of the members and friends of Rotary I would like to thank you for your support and the wisdom that you have passed on to me over the last 2 years

Thanks to the Board members for their help, support and guidance over the last 2 years.

Many thanks to Kit Bailey for taking over the role of Treasurer over the last 2 years. This took considerable time pressures off me to enable me to do other things involved with the Presidency.

I would particularly like to thank Maz Tonkin for her continued support throughout my 2 years. Without her endless guidance, advice, multi daily phone calls, reminders about upcoming and forgotten meetings, gentle guidance about policies and procedures I could not have functioned. Her assistance has been invaluable so thank you Maz, I am so appreciative (Maz was then presented with a lovely bunch of flowers)

To the incoming President Brian Stacey, thanks for your support over the last 24 months, I have enjoyed working closely with you and I believe that a lot of what has been achieved over these last 2 years has been directly due to your efforts.

I look forward to assisting you over the over the coming 12 months once we return from our road trip through NSW and QLD in September.

that's all folks

Chairman Neil Briggs then advised Derek Ryan he had one additional duty to perform and that is the passing of the Presidency over to Brian Stacey which Derek proceeded to do and Brian accepted with heartfelt thanks.

Our New President

BRIAN STACEY

First some thanks:

"I would like to thank our visitors, friends and particularly my family for coming along and sharing this evening with us.

I would like to thank my wife and my best friend Barbara for her ongoing support and I would like to especially thank Maz, Neil, Rob, Marg, Sue and Derek for helping me get my act together.

A little about Rotary if I may:

You will have phrases like "*service above self*" "*changing lives*" "*opening doors*" "*imagine*" "*humanity in action*"

High ideals, with history and with runs on the board

In Chicago in 1905 life was not good.

Corruption, poverty, neglect, self interest and people doing bad things

A guy called Paul Harris sat down with 3 friends and raised the possibility of doing good for the wider community and ROTARY WAS BORN

Rotary was established in Australia in 1921 with a membership of 37.

This Club was formed in 1961 and is part of District 9820. This district extends from Frankston to Orbost with 46 clubs and a membership of 1200 and we are part of the Southern Peninsula cluster of 8 clubs.

Australia has 1,065 clubs with membership of 25,880 as at 2021.

Globally Rotary has 36,843 clubs with a membership of 1,199,580.

Paul Harris did something right, starting with a simple dream to do 'good'
My journey in Rotary began in 1990 when my daughter as a 16yr old left home to spend a year in Sweden as a Rotary exchange student sponsored by Waverly Rotary and hosted by the Danielson family in Malmo. In return we hosted a Swedish student. A truly great experience with its ups and downs and with lasting friendships.

Joining Sorrento in 2018, other than Eliza's experience, I had little understanding of how Rotary worked at a community level.

Retiring here 4 years ago it was an easy decision to get involved with community and dare I say 'pay my dues'

Being President carries a number of responsibilities. Thankfully Sorrento has a string team of experienced people to ensure things will happen.

I have been told that part of my role is to set goals and create opportunities and I have set 3 major goals for the coming year:

***Membership.**

Under Ray's guidance I propose we double our membership by reviewing our fee structure. Be on notice Lyn, Sandra, Terri, Denise, Jan, Prue, Helen, Jan, Ian, Christine, Trish, Barbara. Milos and Brian – 13 'new' members – I hope so.

***Environment**

John Irving, an absolute stalwart of this Club, has volunteered to keep up informed of local issues and how we as a group can play our part and get involved with cluster initiatives and get our hands dirty.

***Community Services**

We can see the work of past fellow Rotarians from Police Point to Hughes Road. Our community is well served with infrastructure thanks to them. We do however have 2 projects in the pipeline, one is a rest area as part of the Peninsula Trail, a district project. The other is a joint venture with Parks Victoria and the PNMS to restore Coppin's Lookout.

Community Services go beyond infrastructure:

Imagine a partnership with our Community Neighbourhood House where 2 major social issues can be addressed and brought together

Imagine: Uncertainty/Apprehension/Fear/Loneliness

Imagine:

Opportunity /Security/Companionship

Imagine:

Single person households meeting accommodation needs of society. Where Neighbourhood house with its resources can partner Rotary with its philosophy to create a template that is secure and safe for all.

Imagine:

'Working Lodgers' program that would benefit all, our ageing population, our young workers, our traders, our community.

From the survey I sent out recently there is a concern that our efforts should address community needs. These initiatives are only a part of our overall fundraising targets and do not replace current programs of supporting Rotary Health and the Foundation. Funds raised from our Motor Show will be directed to the Southern Peninsula Support Group and Anglicare where they engage with the disadvantaged in our community.

So how do we do this?

Our calendar for this year has been set and includes the following:

6 major fundraising events:

- *Portsea Camp Event/Queen's birthday in June
- *our Heritage Motor Show in October
- *Art Show and Sportspeople's Lunch in January
- *'Lift the Lid Walk' in February
- *Golf Day in April.
- *16 regular meetings here at BYS with thanks to our host tonight David
- *6 meetings at the Blairgowrie Cafe thanks to Daryl
- *20 sausage sizzles, 7 Sunday sausage sizzles equates to 5670 snags @ \$3.50 equals \$19,845 (less costs of course)
- *3 community events with our barbeque trailer
- *3 social outings
- *We have a district conference at Cape Schanck
- *Melbourne Rotary is hosting an International Conference in March and I am told 30,000 delegates from overseas – *more on that to come!!*

It is going to be a very busy year but we will achieve these goals through our subcommittee structures and with the welcome help of 'Friends of Rotary' 'Humanity in Action'

I would like to introduce your new Board so wave your hands guys and gals

1. Peter Fahl our new President Elect who served his apprenticeship on the barbeque
2. Maz Tonkin our indomitable Secretary
3. Derek Ryan our bullet proof Treasurer and superstar
4. Neil Briggs our Guru and Statesman
5. Ray Davies, truly our Spirit of Rotary

and

some changes in Housekeeping:

*'Rotary down Under' our magazine is now delivered in hard copy to keep on your coffee tables to share with friends

*Our Bulletin is being reformatted with the help of Lorraine, Maz, John and Marlene

*Our meetings will be under the guidance of Rob with Kit, Marg and Ray being regular Sergeants with others by invitation (bring along your small change)

With numbers usually down over the Winter period Daryl has kindly made his Café and staff available for what will be themed informal meetings.

Rotarians are people of action and we have much to do

Please take our program and club structure for the coming year and brace yourselves, bearing in mind the idea is to have fun and good fellowship whilst doing good. ***thank you***

Neil then invited President Brian to present lovely bunches of flowers to Maz, Robin and Barbara and advised that every year there is a new banner for Rotary and he then presented this year's banner which is 'Imagine' along with John Lennon's beautiful song playing which has appropriate words for the Rotary's ideals.

Good night all

