

# BLACKWOOD ROTARY CLUB



## ROTARY CLUB OF BLACKWOOD - Meeting No. 2518, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020

Bernie welcomed 20 members, D.G. Tim Klar, A.G Marilyn Russell, President of Coromandel Rotary, Robert Sidford and our guest speaker, Lyndall Young to the second Zoom meeting. Some feedback has been received that we need to open the meeting earlier to enable people to chat, and in future, Bernie will have Zoom open by at least 6.45pm to allow people to chat before hand. One of the benefits of a Zoom meeting is that Bernie gets to greet everyone as they join, whereas at a normal meeting, ensuring the set up and dealing with issues that arise then, often prevented this. He officially welcomed everyone to our second Zoom meeting, meeting No. 2518, by reciting the 4 way test.

Apologies were received from the following;

- David Neal. He is in good health and managing to do the shopping and look after his mother in a retirement home near Woolworths.
- Lillian Ross. Lillian is working from home and using her all her personal communication devices for work. Her employer has concerns over the threat that use of Zoom poses to her employer's network.
- Kevin Marsh who does not have a computer capable of Zoom, or any video communication.
- Sue Wymond
- Dave Russell

### PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### 1. CLUB HEALTH

Since our last meeting a fortnight ago when I asked for Club input on the way forward given the resignations from next year's board, I have not heard again from Laura, and I have only had one phone call suggesting that I ask another member take on the President's role for next year. The consequences of the pandemic removes the urgency of the current Club crisis in leadership, but without membership input, the Board will have some tough decisions to make next month. The District has been advised of our current situation.

#### 2. FUTURE MEETINGS

The success of the Zoom format gives us the opportunity to have a wider range of guest speakers. You will notice that there is a "share screen" facility that enables the sharing of power point and videos. If anyone has any suggestions for a guest speaker, please let me know. Also, if you would like to invite anyone else to our Zoom meetings, please forward them the invitation, but please let me know who you have invited.

#### 3. ROTARY RESOURCES

I enjoyed the Rotary Webinar featuring the federal health minister (Greg Hunt). If anyone missed that, below is the link.

<https://youtu.be/H5h1VqJwAjA> .

#### 4. USE OF OUR ZOOM ACCOUNT

The Rotary Club's Zoom account can be used by any member for Rotary business. We have paid for an account and it is ideal for our Board or committee meetings. Meetings can be set up instantly or scheduled and the only limitation is that our account is limited to one meeting at any one time.

### OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF ROTARY

- Alan Eldridge reported on the 50<sup>th</sup> year Committee's status;

- Birthday Luncheon Booked for Sunday September 13 at the Blackwood Golf Club.
- Hannaford Park - committed up to \$7500.00 to help with the council to erect a shelter over the benches. A plaque to be attached recognising Rotary Club of Blackwood along with the Mitcham Council.
- Publication of 50 year history - John Jackson compiling it.
- Tshirts - Laura's committee
- Community Event To be in conjunction with the Fair, perhaps rebranding the Fair for this year. To be discussed with Dave.
- Street Statue - Sculptor Greg Johns had an idea of a figure holding the Rotary Wheel. However, his price was well beyond our budget. This idea is still being pursued however.
- Until we know what is happening with regard to the virus I will put everything on hold, and the Luncheon may have to be at the back end of the 50th year.
- Bruce gave an update on Calperum and the Health of the River

## SHARING INFORMATION REGARDING BLACKWOOD BUSINESSES AND HOW THEY ARE COPING.

- Alan Eldridge, said that his Newsagency business is going fairly well in the circumstances, although he is not spending much time at the shop
- Lyn Muller, reported that the Russell Clinic's going well with Flu vaccinations dominating the work at present.
- Martin Rowe reported that he had been to Montagna who were struggling, but appreciated our "once a week take-away" business.
- Bernie reported on some of our other Art Show supporters
  - Tracy from Ciba hairdressers has moved to a single room salon in Coromandel Valley alongside the bakery. She is staggering her appointments and cleaning all equipment between customers.
  - Ben Quirk from Blackwood Hire says that DIY has seen good times in their business, but he is concerned about the coming winter.
  - Cos and Rocky from Hairdressing for Men Blackwood have closed their business until 1<sup>st</sup> May.

## Sergeant's session

From the safety of his home on Zoom, Terry Tierney conducted the sergeant's session with his normal enthusiasm. Fines were liberally applied to all participants (except for our guest speaker – thanks Terry). A reminder that voluntary "fees for corkage and fines" can be paid to our Club account BSB 633-000, Ac No. 164268559.

## Guest Speaker

All participants then "muted" microphones and our guest speaker Lyndall Young (Proprietor of Travelaffare Blackwood) took centre screen being interviewed by Club Service Director Michael. Lyndall had started in the travel business as soon as she left school at 17 and worked for various travel agencies and wholesalers before starting Travelaffare with Leonie Nelson in 1998. Leonie retired in December last year and Lyndall took it on as the sole proprietor (very unfortunate timing). Lyndall said that Travelaffare had a very sound financial base (prior to the pandemic) and she acknowledged the value of her team, particularly now working under very trying conditions. She thought that her "point of difference" in the market was the relationship she had with the Blackwood community and believes that the service she supplies to our community, guaranteed her a fair market share. She stated that booking through a travel agent was not always more expensive than DIY travel, and welcomed people doing their research before coming to Travelaffare. Lyndall would prefer people to use any travel agent rather than DIY because of the service that travel agents offer. This is particularly evident in the current circumstances, where she and her team are working hard looking after their clients interests to gain refunds or pursue Insurance claims to minimise losses.

One of the main planks in Travelaffare business is the “cruise” industry, and Lyndall believes that many people will get back on board, but only after a vaccine for COVID-19 is available. In the meantime, Travelaffare is relying on government assistance to remain operational.

Lyndall was applauded by participants, and on ascertaining that she was a red wine drinker, she will be presented with a gift of a bottle of Blackwood Rotary’s shiraz by Secretary Chris.

### **CLOSING COMMENTS**

Bernie attempted to show a video before closing the meeting, but failed the test. It is attached so that you can view it. The next regular Zoom meeting will be 5 May commencing at 7pm. Meantime, please ring Bernie to discuss anything. The next Board Meeting will be May 12.