

The Geelong Tatler



The Bulletin of The Rotary Club of Geelong

Rotary Meetings 8th & 15th June 2021

R.I. Strengthens Diversity - Equity & Inclusion Statement

At its June meeting, the RI Board of Directors, with guidance from the DEI Taskforce, took additional steps to ensure our organization values and lives the principals of diversity, equity and inclusion by revisiting and strengthening Rotary's 2019 DEI statement. The result is a new Commitment to Diversity Equity and Inclusion adopted in June 2021:

At Rotary, we understand that cultivating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive culture is essential to realizing our vision of a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change.

We value diversity and celebrate the contributions of people of all backgrounds, across age, ethnicity, race, color, disability, learning style, religion, faith, socioeconomic status, culture, marital status, languages spoken, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity as well as differences in ideas, thoughts, values, and beliefs.

Recognizing that individuals from certain groups have historically experienced barriers to membership, participation, and leadership, we commit to advancing equity in all aspects of Rotary, including in our community partnerships, so that each person has the necessary access to resources, opportunities, networks, and support to thrive.

We believe that all people hold visible and invisible qualities that inherently make them unique, and we strive to create an inclusive culture where each person knows they are valued and belong.

In line with our value of integrity, we are committed to being honest and transparent about where we are in our DEI journey as an organization, and to continuing to learn and do better.

The Board of Directors convened the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Taskforce in 2020 and tasked it with assessing the current state of DEI within Rotary and developing a comprehensive plan of action with achievable, measurable, and meaningful outcomes for Rotary. This plan is currently in development and will be presented to the Board of Directors in October 2021.

Additionally, the Board agreed to:

Provide DEI training for incoming, current, and past RI officers

Promote the Rotary Code of Conduct

Establish protocols to report Code of Conduct violations

More information about these decisions, and our ongoing focus on DEI, will be available on rotary.org/dei in the coming weeks.

The Board thanks the taskforce for its ongoing commitment to creating a more just, open, and welcoming Rotary experience during this past year. The taskforce's work is critical to the organization's long-term success. The Board also extended the work of the DEI Taskforce through June 2023.

Changeover Dinner Tuesday 29th June

Please note there will not be a lunchtime meeting. We meet at Capri at 6.30 for 7.00 pm

Rotary International President

Holger Knaack,
Rotary Club of Herzogtum
Lauenburg-Mölln, Germany.

District Governor

Philip Beasley,
Geelong Central Rotary Club.

Rotary Club of Geelong Inc.

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President:

Sue Marshman

Secretary:

Barry Cooper

Birthdays June

23rd June Geoff Everett,
26th June Max Eastwood



Rotary Opens Opportunities

Donations for Fiji

There is an immediate need to assist the people of Nabavatu Village. It has been completely destroyed. Food, shelter and sanitation needs are desperately required.



Rotary Meeting 8th June 2021



Chair, Ewen Urquhart, called Members (no Guests in attendance) to order and gave the Invocation, before asking President Sue to Welcome everyone.

Pres Sue noted the congoing challenges associated with the latest lock-down and urged as many Members as possible to attend the Change-over dinner now being attended by one Guest – Phil Beasley the District Chair. Member Helen advised that the planned “Wasted” dinners had been cancelled / postponed, but she intended to resurrect them once Covid restrictions were eased and enabled such gatherings to proceed. Des Graham noted that he had enjoyed a Rotary organized 4WD expedition in Victoria by a group of enthusiasts. Members were invited to speak to Des to learn more.

Ewen the invited Member Neil Thomas to deliver his presentation on his Cornish heritage.

Neil commenced by highlighting the historical connections of the Cornish people with each of England, Scotland, Sth Wales and Ireland, pointing out that the Cornish are not a historical nationality but rather a social grouping based on wide ranging geographical migration and influence of its original ancestors from 450A.D. The culture of Cornwall (Cornish: Goniso-geh Kernow) forms part of the culture of the United Kingdom, but has distinct customs, traditions and peculiarities. Cornwall has many strong local traditions. After many years of decline, Cornish culture has undergone a strong revival, and many groups exist to promote Cornwall's culture and language today. Neil proudly continued by describing that a relationship with the Druids had existed through a Priory and that some areas the Cornish people settled over a 1,000 years ago was identified having been underwater during that time and remarkably, artifacts and buildings been preserved. Cornish presence was strongly connected with Tin mining and production and this was symbolized in the Cornish Coat of Arms and its Patron, St Pirans. Cornish traditions are strongly associated with various tartans and Neil's family is linked with various “Registered” tartans with each having particular significance and meaning. Neil's family tartan has a white cross on a black background and is from the banner of Saint Piran, the patron saint of tanners, which is also used as the flag of Cornwall. Neil noted that the word kilt is a derivative of Celt meaning hidden culture, further highlighting that a connection with Greece and the Druids which were religious warriors. Achievements in various studies are rewarded by being “anointed” as a Bard, and in 1928 some 1200 Bards existed of which 50% were in Australia. Neil highlighted that he had been recognized for his ancestry by his award of a Bardship. Recognition of Bards is associated with wearing a Sporrán and a feature of the Cornish version is the attachment in a triangular arrangement of 15 bezant gold symbols, a metal adornments on the back of the Sporrán. These represent the crusades when the Duke of Cornwall was captured by the Saracens and a ransom of 15 bezants was demanded for his release.

The Celts (linked to the Cornish) roamed widely throughout Europe and in 300BC sacked Rome in a bloodthirsty rampage as described by various historians. The Cornish language is similar to Welsh and its people are renowned for their industry of fishing, tin and copper mining.

Neil explained that the heritage of the Cornish could be widely found in Australia including family homes within the Catholic Church grounds in Ballarat. He also observed that the Cornish family of Vautier was recorded in the street of the same name in Geelong and was linked to the Great Uncle of a property developer from Brighton Cornwall. This family also was remembered in a memorial church window which Neil had seen during one of his visits to his ancestral village. A further story relayed by Neil noted that the Welcome Stranger gold nugget discovered during the Victoria Gold Rush was unearthed by a Cornish Gold miner – Richard Oates. His story continued that the nugget was hidden by rolling it in mud and placing it in an oven, while some of the rough edges had been broken off it and given away. It had to be cut up to enable it to be weighed and the true weight of the original find was even greater than is widely recognized. A piece of the nugget was made into a gold ring which Neil had seen and he noted how particularly heavy it was compared with any similar adornment.

It was clear that Neil had a great passion for his ancestral origins and had made strenuous efforts to uncover his family connections linked with the overall Cornish history. His stories and knowledge were greatly appreciated by Members, although it was regrettably noted that in the time allocated for his presentation, Neil had hardly “touched the surface” of his knowledge and research efforts.

Meeting was concluded by President Sue and with Daryl Starkey winning the lucky Entry Gift Voucher.



Special thanks to ROBIN POVEY for this weeks notes.



Rotary Meeting 15th June 2021



CHAIR – Beryl McMillan welcomed us to Capri Receptions and introduced Andrew Lawson in the absence of President Sue Marshman

ANDREW LAWSON:

1. Welcome to all.
2. Please ensure that all RSVPs are in for the Changeover Dinner on Tuesday, 29 June 2021 at Capri Receptions.
3. A reminder that there will be no lunch meeting on the day of the Changeover Dinner.

SPEAKER – DES GRAHAM

TOPIC – RECREATIONAL VEHICLES FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARY (“RVFR”)

Firstly, Des gave an explanation on Rotary Fellowships.

Rotary Fellowships are international groups that share a common passion. Being part of a Fellowship is a fun way to make friends around the world, explore a hobby or profession, and enhance the Rotary experience.



Although promoted by Rotary International, Fellowships are self-governing and self-funded.

There are 90 types of Rotary Fellowships ranging from Amateur Radio to Yoga.

Des and Jill have been members of the Australian Recreational Vehicles Fellowship of Rotarians - Southern Zone (Victoria) since 2005. This Zone, along with the Northern Zone (Queensland) and Eastern Zone (New South Wales) meet in October each year for a National “Muster” - 2021 will be held in Toowoomba.

The operation and activities of Operation and Activities of RVFR Southern Zone.

To join, an applicant must be a Rotary member and have a caravan, motorhome, camper-trailer or tent and vehicle but use of cabin accommodation is accepted for established members who no longer wish to tow a caravan.

The Southern Zone has a current membership of 120 - including partners. Clubs represented range from Sale to Ballarat and Bendigo to Geelong.

Musters are held over a Wednesday to Monday period in February, May and November each year. The location is chosen by a volunteer “Drover” and assistants (“Dogs”), the most recent being held at Wentworth and Broken Hill in May this year. The November 2021 event is planned for Geelong and our Club has been invited to participate.

The “Muster” program usually includes joining with the local Rotary Club at their regular meeting and visiting local tourist attractions and industries, many of which are not normally open to the public. Interspersed with this are plenty of opportunities for fun and fellowship. Attendance at Musters range from 60 to 90 members

Des used a video presentation of the Wentworth/Broken Hill Muster to illustrate the activities of RVFR Southern Zone.

Highlights at Wentworth included a riverside BBQ and visit to the Ron Gol organic almond plantation complex, the Wentworth Gaol, Rotary Pioneer Museum, Dareton Men’s Shed and Australian Inland Botanic Gardens.

At Broken Hill events included a guided historical city walk, a bus excursion of the district and visits to early Royal Flying Doctor Service base, the original mining centre of Silverton and the Living Desert Sculpture Park.

Fun and fellowship highlights included meetings with the Wentworth and Broken Hill Rotary clubs and a “Priscilla Queen of the Desert” cabaret floor show at the Broken Hill Palace Hotel.

Des showed a number of photographs of the interesting places they attended on the muster. Andrew thanked Des for his insightful presentation, on behalf of the members. He also reminded us that the meeting to be held on 22 June will be at Deakin University and directions and details will be sent in good time.



Special thanks to HELEN ST JOHN for this weeks notes.

Rotary Meetings 18th & 25th May