

Rotary Connects.....the World

Rotary Club of Parramatta City

May 28th 2020
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I am pleased to say we are nearly ready to launch The Festival of Pangaea as a celebration of the United Nations in October 2021, where our club will be the lead club. The basic concept is based on the Continent of Pangaea was a super continent when all continents of the world were joined as one and as the United Nations is an assembly of all nations so will this festival. We will be asking all community organisations where they represent places from around the world to showcase, the two things they are usually proud of:

1. Food
2. History through dance and music

We will be holding the Festival at the same time in Penrith, Blacktown and Parramatta.

Following discussions with the respective councils we will now move the next stage of recruiting volunteers to fill the roles we will require to make

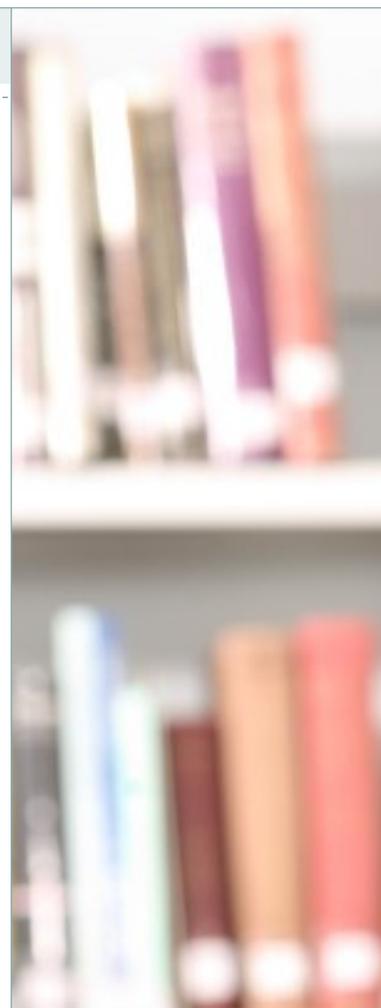


this happen. This concept has the support of the Rotary clubs in North Group, but we will be asking Rotarians and non Rotarians to fill these positions. The business plan and Stakeholder engagement plans are available for all members to view.

I hope to see you at the Monday week's meeting and if you missed any of our previous speakers they are on the Clubs Youtube channel, search under the club's name or https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIv8_YX8Tu9KosEkob6MyVA

As well I encourage to use our facebook page, like it and subscribe to our Youtube channel as well

President Barry Antees



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Notes from meeting

MEETING NOTES-MALCOLM BROWN

25^h May 2020

The club held another zoom meeting, this time dedicated to the question of how we are all getting on in the pandemic lockdown. Present were president Barry Antees, secretary Joy Gillett, Keith Henning, Bob Rosengreen, Malcolm Brown and Laurence Wilson, Laurence having returned from New Zealand where he was able to secure some large deals. Apologies were received from Natalie Cowell, Joy Nel and Waranee Nuij, the latter two emailing in their own takes on the virus. Barry said he had been able to catch up with former member Ben Jackson.

Joy Gillett's Take

Joy Gillett, who is heavily involved in netball administration, said that coping with the COVID-19 virus was “a logistical nightmare”. There were 42 teams and nine time slots every Saturday. Organising them was a big job and because of the virus the association had probably lost about 15 percent of its members for various reasons, including medical ones, though the medical factors did not necessarily involve the kids. Joy said things could not remain in suspension forever and eventually dealing with operations in this time meant we would eventually have to “blow it or kill it”. Joy believed that people would probably be making a full return to work in July. But she had made some inquiries and discovered that under the law, if a person could demonstrate he or she could do their job satisfactorily from home, they could be allowed to work from home.

Laurence's Take

Laurence said the scout troop he led had had a virtual meeting although the kids did not know the etiquette of allowing someone else to finish before they started talking. Numbers had also dropped off. At the start, there had been 28 kids. That had dropped to 21 and probably 12 to 15 turned up each week. It was necessary to be creative and innovative to keep the attention of the kids. The virus was “testing the mettle” of leaders. Laurence himself had been “anti-technology” but now was forced to make concessions and apply himself more to on-line operations.

Laurence did not think virtual conferences would take over from physical ones because much of the substantial business was done in informal meetings, such as in the bar at the end of the day's conference session. “I have been trying to run a sales operation from my desk for 10 weeks,” he said. “It does not work. It (selling) is a very personal thing. If they could have done it from an office, computers would have replaced people 10 years ago.” He did not agree with the claim that people would be more productive working from home. Being in the workplace meant you could talk to each other and “solve things quickly”.

Laurence, being a New Zealander, said his countrymen were proud of what they had done in containing the virus. Everything had been closed down, even the takeaway food shops. People were told when they could go to supermarkets, and when they did, there were long queues. His sister in Wellington was not allowed to visit her father. But they had got through it and Prime Minister Jacinta Ardern had been an inspiring leader. But when he returned to Australia, and spending 10 days in isolation, he had gone to the supermarket wearing a mask and was surprised to see how many people were not wearing masks. He was also surprised to see how many people were not observing distance rules.

MEETING NOTES-MALCOLM BROWN

Joy Nel's Take

Joy said in her email: "My input is that I am looking forward to being back in the office to have interaction with 'real' people I'm so over Zoom meetings and to have my little home back as my sanctuary to escape the 'maddening crowd' at the end of each day. Have a great week everyone."

Waranee's Take

Waranee Nuij said in her email: "In life before COVID-19 I used to feel guilty when I don't do enough, the rules of the lock down though, gave me enough time to escape some of the burden of obligations. The weights of things I 'should be' doing. Our calendar seems to be busier than ever with Zoom meetings and phone catch up. Outings were replaced by long walks and more gardening. My two English Cocker Spaniels just love their exercises and meeting people so this helps. The best thing is I spend less during the lock down. Though gradual return to work is causing more change but I think I am ready to do that and so are our team members. Observing the rules of course is at the heart of returning. So, after the happy time in lock down. I plan to buy less and worry less."

Bob's Take

Bob Rosengreen said that the next two weeks, when people were going back to work, was "critical". "If things don't go crazy with a second spike, then they will probably go back to a normal situation," he said. There were only about 600 people in the whole of Australia now with the virus, so things were looking pretty good. But there were fears that might break down. He said the world of virtual meetings and remote operations using computers was going to increase in the future and with the advent of new satellite technology, immensely speeding up the system, there was great potential. If people could do their job more efficiently, there were big changes that could come about because of that. . It would change the nature of the workplace. The whole future hung on the internet. Just as in Roman times, roads were used as a way of fast-tracking communications, the internet was fast-tracking things today. There would be continuing physical conferences in the future, but he believed there would be many more on-line conferences.

Barry Take

Barry Antees said that in Queensland, the Department of Health had offered discounts to staff to have the internet set up in their home, where the department could email them information. The check on staff consisted of monitoring how much they used their keyboard, on which pay was to be calculated. It was an arrangement that worked until one employ devised a means of automatically depressing keys on her keyboard while she went out and had a good time.

Barry endorsed Laurence's view of the importance of physical meetings. People meeting for coffee during a conference and exchanging ideas was "where it happens". Business meetings provided the opportunity for networking. The proof could be seen in the activities of Keith Henning, who attended RI conferences and came back with project ideas the club could take up. He thought that at present in the community there was confidence that people were doing the right thing.

Malcolm's Take

Malcolm said that despite the advantages of physical get-togethers, the ease of the zoom conferences raised the possibility of this system generally replacing physical meetings. He gave an example of a national conference organised for Perth. Where participants would normally have to pay hundreds of dollars for air fares and accommodation, the whole thing could be replaced by a zoom or skype hook-up where the same information and discussions could take place.

MEETING NOTES-MALCOLM BROWN

Keith's Take

Keith Henning said he had had the Sunday's service emailed to him on the Friday. It had been pre-recorded so last Sunday, he played golf with his son, his son having been unable to get onto the course on the Saturday. He agreed that virtual meetings had advantages. "You can do anything, but being physically near people and relating to them is something you miss," he said.

Keith said he had been ordering things on-line and had found goods dropped at his doorstep. Glennis had been going to a dance club. But there had been huge restrictions. The club had started with only two people at one time. Then they had progressed to four people. He gone to a shopping centre in Castle Hill for the first time since the start of the pandemic and was surprised to see how many shops had closed and how people had been laid off. He had needed to have maintenance done on his mobile phone and after a long wait had been allowed into the shop and told exactly where to sit before someone came to fix his phone. o

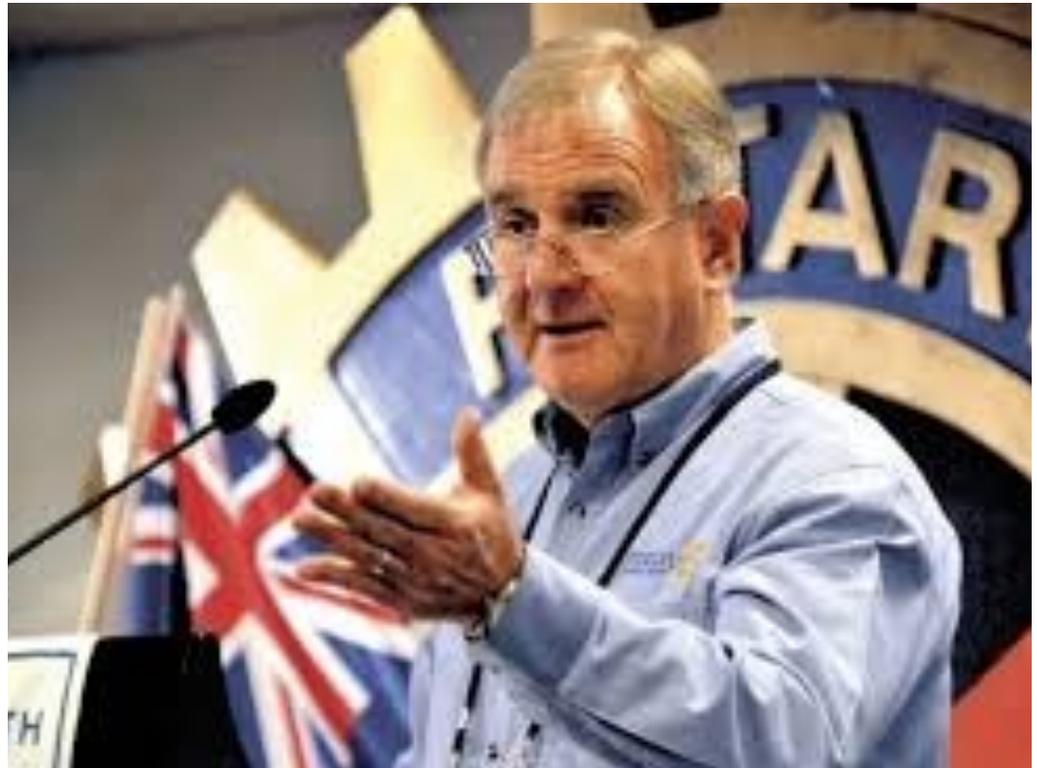
Poignant Pictures



Guest Speaker
Virtual club meetings
Monday June 1st 2020 at 1.00pm

Bob Aitken-Journalist and former Editor Rotary Down Under Speaking on the new book 100 years of Rotary in Australia and New Zealand

Bob enjoyed twenty seven successful years as managing editor of Rotary Down Under's stable of regional magazines, prior to accepting the challenge of strategic partner alignment whilst working to enhance Rotary's public image. Rotary Down Under's core business remains the production of quality print magazines ever mindful of the changing focus within all facets of modern media, digital publishing and television



We now have a permanent GOTO details which I will repeat but for those who want to make this a permanent in your calendars

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ROTARY

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Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

WE TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES

We take action locally and globally

Each day, our members pour their passion, integrity, and intelligence into completing projects that have a lasting impact. We persevere until we deliver real, lasting solutions.

Giving to Our Causes



Promoting Peace



Fighting Disease



Providing Clean Water



Saving Mothers and Children



Supporting Education



Growing Local Economies



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