



Annual Report

2019-20



***“We gather in fellowship
to serve the community”***

Rotary Club of Ivanhoe at a Glance

Club Officers

PRESIDENT: CARL BICKNELL	PAST PRESIDENT: KEVIN RITCHIE
SECRETARY: STUART WAIT	TREASURER: PHIL LACY
VOCATIONAL SERVICE & MEMBERSHIP: JEFF PERCY	COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS: DAVID BALSHAW
YOUTH SERVICES: ROBERT STRINGER	PUBLIC RELATIONS: BEVERLEY SHEPPARD
INTERNATIONAL SERVICE & ROTARY FOUNDATION: JUDITH MOTTRAM	BULLETIN EDITOR: CARL BICKNELL

Chartered: March 1993

Members at beginning of year: 20

Members at end of year: 21

New members during year: 2

Meetings: Wednesday mornings 7.15 am to 8.30 am

Website: www.rotaryclubivanhoe.org.au

Facebook: Rotary Club of Ivanhoe

Rotary District: 9790

District Governor: Brian Peters (Albury West)

District Group: Group 2
(Coburg, Heidelberg, Ivanhoe, Moreland, Pascoe Vale,
Preston, Strathmore)

Assistant Governor: Emma Davis (Strathmore)

President's Report

When I commenced the year as President I had no idea what was to unfold. I was concerned we would not be able to raise sufficient funds to service our programs. We were no longer eligible to run sausage sizzles at Bunnings Northland, instead being allocated to the much smaller new store in Darebin Road. Recruitment of new members was a priority, and that meant we needed to demonstrate we are an active Club with meaningful projects, making a difference.

Fast forward 12 months.

I look back with pride and satisfaction at our Club's achievements.

- We increased our membership.
- We had a very successful fundraising year, thanks largely to the high number of sausage sizzles – 12 in total, half of them at Bunnings.
- We ran an informative community seminar on risk and management of dementia that provided a service to the community while also raising money for mental health and dementia research.
- We continued our active involvement in the Rotary Overseas Recycled Playgrounds, with four playgrounds completed and more coming.
- We sponsored a young person, Desty to attend RYLA.
- We continued to support Rotary programs including Every Rotarian Every Year, End Polio Now, Australian Rotary Health, Shelterbox.
- We continued our support for an Australian Rotary Health Indigenous Health Scholar, with new scholar Marie White commencing her degree studies.
- We secured a District Grant to match our \$1000 donation to 3081 Angels, providing a donation of \$2,000 for purchase of supplies for needy young families.

One goal we set for the year was establishment of a new website for the Club. I acknowledge the enormous amount of work David Balshaw has put into this project and have been pleased to see the new website close to being activated.

Another initiative was our becoming a sponsor of community radio station Inner FM and look forward to greater use of this promotion channel for the club.

Then in March Covid-19 hit. No more face to face meetings. No more sausage sizzles. No community events. At last for the time being. We immediately responded to the challenge by shifted to on-line mode and starting meetings by ZOOM. It has been pleasing to note the high numbers of Rotarians participating in these meetings as we gain understanding of the new opportunities on-line meetings can bring.

I thank all members of the Club Executive for their support during the year and the great efforts put in by our members as we continue to **gather in fellowship to serve the community**.

Carl Bicknell, 21 June 2020

Treasurer's Report

It's been another great year for the Rotary Club of Ivanhoe. Despite changes to our activities due to the global pandemic, we still managed to generate more income than we had budgeted. This was mostly due to the increase in BBQ events.

Income for the year came from:

Breakfast	\$6,106.06
BBQ - Bunnings	\$5,020.25
Membership/Subscriptions	\$4,987.00
BBQ - Boulevard Lights	\$1,483.05
Community Talk	\$1,283.04
Blue Illusion	\$743.00
BBQ - Banyule Council (ad hoc)	\$696.69
Celebrations	\$627.63
Christmas Party	\$331.32
Rotary Night In	\$200.00
BBQ - Olympic Village Market	\$168.90
TOTAL (less expenses)	\$21,646.94

Plus two District Grants:

Indigenous Health Scholarships	\$1,500.00
3081 Angels	\$1,000.00
TOTAL	\$2,500.00

Our donations went to:

Indigenous Health Scholarships	\$5,000.00
Every Rotarian Every Year	\$2,860.00
3081 Angels	\$2,000.00
Walwa Bush Nursing Centre	\$1,632.10
Youth Leadership Award (RYLA)	\$1,270.00
Red Cross Broome Breakfast Clubs	\$1,000.00
Polio Plus	\$1,000.00
Hat Day (ARHRF)	\$769.50
Dementia Australia	\$641.50
Corryong back to school (bushfires)	\$500.00
Shelterbox	\$500.00
Rotarians Against Malaria	\$500.00
Community Radio	\$295.00
TOTAL	\$17,968.10

Plus

Rotary Membership/Subscriptions	\$5,395.17
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Thank you to all our members for your energy and willingness to support all these worthy programs.

Phil Lacy 21 June 2020

Brian Peters - District Governor Visit

On Wednesday 7 August we welcomed our District Governor Brian Peters and Assistant Governor Emma Davis.

Brian highlighted this year's *Rotary Connects the World* theme, and provided an example of a simple connection through *Rotary Friendship Exchange* leading to bigger things.

Brian, who is from Albury, was introduced to Rotary 7 years ago through his whisky tasting club. With a corporate executive background, it wasn't long before Brian became involved in administration of District Grants - a great way to learn about what other clubs were doing.

Brian highlighted one of Rotary's biggest challenges – remaining sufficiently relevant in the modern age to maintain or grow membership numbers. Our Rotary District 9790 contains fast growing towns on the northern outskirts of Melbourne, but our numbers are declining. Perhaps one way to overcome the decline is to establish more flexible rules for Rotary Clubs, such as the Passport Club model recently adopted by Donations in Kind, or the electronic meetings held by Rotex – returning Rotary overseas scholars.

In conclusion, Brian reminded us that the most powerful reason for people to join Rotary is to experience friendship, fellowship and fun.



Tiana Lacy

Brian introduced Tiana Lacy, already well known to our club, as a recently returned exchange scholar and a member of Rotex. Tiana explained how Rotex has 23 members who provide a social network for exchange students, help run the Dukie weekend for starting exchange students, support incoming exchange students and returning exchange students. Tiana told us Rotex's DG partner project charity is Headspace, which promotes mental health for young people.

New Member Inductions

On 20 November we inducted Peter Harden into our Club. Peter was introduced by Greg King from the Rotary Club of Manningham, who attended with his wife Alma Reynolds from the Rotary Club of Doncaster and District Governor-elect for District 9810.



Greg King (RC Manningham) with Peter and President Carl



President Carl and Graham Norman welcome Frank Incani to our Club

Our second new member induction took place at the Club's Christmas party on 18 December. We welcomed Frank Incani as our newest Ivanhoe Rotarian.

Meetings and Activities

Sausage Sizzles (Fundraising & Community Service)

A major portion of external funds for our Club has come from BBQs and sausage sizzles. Our new portable commercial BBQ has been put to good use and well and truly paid for itself.

In particular we acknowledge the wonderful assistance from Bunnings in Fairfield, which has provided us with no fewer than six weekend BBQ events, plus donation of a raffle prize and gift vouchers.

We again participated in the City of Banyule Boulevard Christmas Lights community celebrations by staging sausages sizzles on two evenings. A third planned evening was cancelled because of a Total Fire Ban. Other Council BBQ events included a Sunday morning sizzle at the Northern Grasslands Reserve and a Sunday late afternoon at Movies on the Move Outdoor Cinema in Ivanhoe Park. We were also set to put on a BBQ to celebrate opening of a new Council playground, but thunderstorms and rain caused a last-minute cancellation.

Bunnings Sat 6 July



Olympic Village Sat 13 July



Northern Grasslands Reserve Sun 25 August



Bunnings Sat 23 Nov

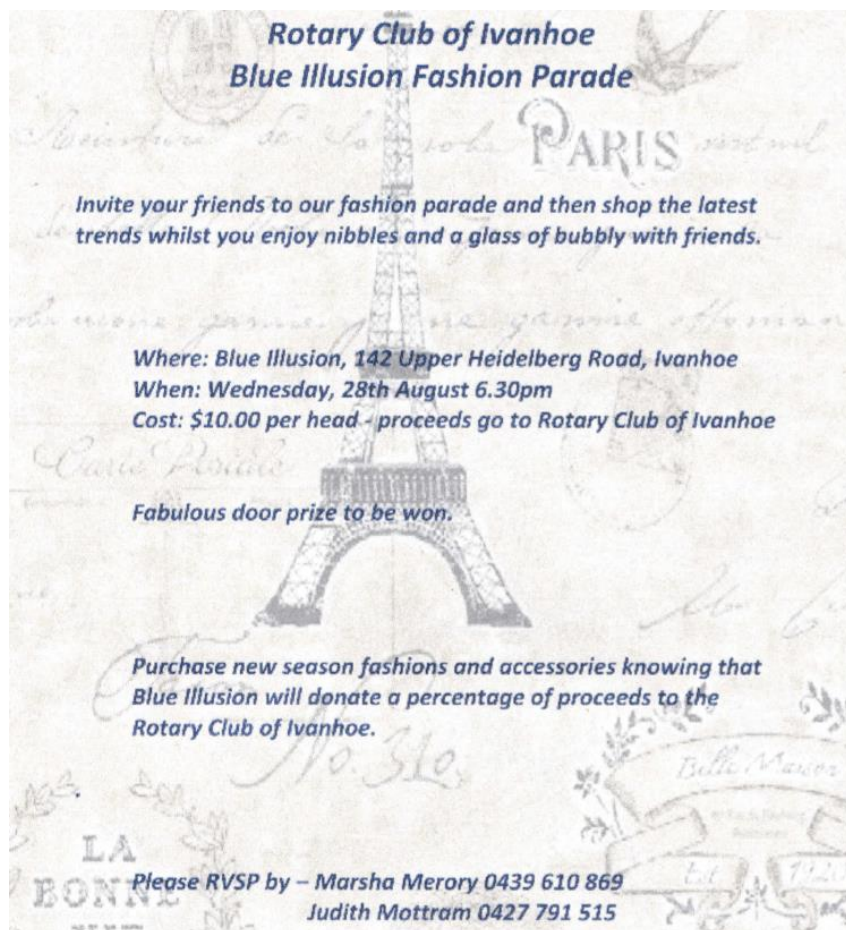


Ivanhoe Boulevard



Blue Illusion Night (Fundraising)

On Wednesday 28 August the Club ran another fundraising evening at the Ivanhoe Blue Illusion retail fashion shop. With 20 people attending, the event raised over \$650 for Rotary.



Community Seminar (Fundraising & Community Service)

On Tuesday 29 November 67 guests including many visiting Rotarians attended the special evening seminar on the topic 'Eat, Play, Love—minimising the risk of dementia'.

The take-home message was the importance of leading a fulfilling healthy lifestyle incorporating nutritious food, regular exercise, and stimulating relationships. We need to nurture and develop our brains, preferably from an early age, and keep blood pressure under control. Oh, and drinking moderate amounts of red wine is a net positive!



Maree McCabe

A highlight was a demonstration by Dr Tanya Petrovich of a virtual reality simulation of what it is like to be a person with dementia. We were able to use VR goggles and headphones to put ourselves into the shoes of a sufferer— actually quite confronting and frightening.



Eat play love

- reducing your risk of

dementia



Maree McCabe
CEO Dementia
Australia,
Boss magazine
True Leader



Associate Professor
Michael Woodward AM,
Head of Aged Care Research,
Heidelberg Repatriation
Hospital, Austin Health

Tuesday 29th October, 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm.
Latrobe Golf Club, Farm Road, Alphington.

\$45 per person, includes finger food on arrival. Drinks at bar prices.

Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/BFQTU>

Dementia is the **second leading cause of death** of Australians and the biggest killer of Australian women, surpassing heart disease.

The number of new cases of dementia is expected to increase to **318 people per day** by 2025 and more than 650 people per day by 2056.

Dementia is the single greatest cause of disability in older Australians.

Brought to you by the Rotary Club of Ivanhoe,
in association with Dementia Australia.

Proceeds to Australian Rotary Health mental
health research and Dementia Australia.



Playgrounds (Community and International Service)

The Club continued its involvement in Rotary Overseas Playgrounds Recycling (RORP) project, under very capable leadership and coordination of Peter Cribb from the Rotary Club of Flemington.

With assistance from Rotarians from Heidelberg and Rosanna Clubs, and Peter's technical support team, we succeeded in documenting, removing and preparing for overseas shipment four playgrounds, with great support from the City of Banyule and several specialist playground installation contractors. Even more would have been achieved were it not for the Corona Virus restrictions.

These playgrounds would otherwise have ended up as scrap metal and landfill rubbish. Instead, they are on their way to Sri Lanka where they are assigned to local Rotary Clubs and reassembled to provide play facilities for children in an environment where such equipment otherwise just would not exist.

Through hands-on involvement in the playground recycling project our members are able to be personally involved in physical activity that has a strong overseas aid theme, without having to travel overseas! New members in particular have been keen to get involved in this project - another great example of Rotary Connecting People.



Australian Rotary Health

Indigenous Scholarship (Vocational Service)

Our Club has for many years supported an Australian Rotary Health scholarship for indigenous students pursuing studies in a health-related area.

We welcomed our new **Indigenous Health Scholar Marie White**.

Marie is enrolled in the Bachelor of Social Work degree at Deakin University. She states her aim is to assist and support Indigenous women men and children as well a young people who are entering into adulthood, and more importantly their mental health. We wish Marie every success in her studies.



Mental Health Research 'Hat Day' (Disease Prevention and Treatment)

On Wednesday 9 October HAT DAY celebrations were the order of the day.

Raising money for mental health research, every hat told a story.

Most memorable was David's pirate hat (straight out of the dress-up box). This recalled the 2007 adventure boat trip in the Caribbean undertaken by David and a few friends from work.



David, Kevin, Judith, Graham, Frances and guest Frank — with lids on

Graham chose his well-worn Couta Boat sailing hat, while Frank showed off his very practical cap with fold-away ear muffs.

Frances wore probably the oldest hat, a hand-down from her mother-in-law. Judith's hat recalled a trip to Hobart, while Kevin's sombrero was obtained in Mexico some 8 years ago.

The Club's Hat Day special meeting was followed up with a Bunnings BBQ and raffle in November. Proceeds from that event plus half the proceeds from the Community Seminar on Dementia were added to the Club's total donation to Australian Rotary Health mental health research.

Bendigo Bank Pitch Night (Community Service)

Wednesday 7 August was the Bendigo Bank Pitch Night.

A total of 15 groups 'pitched' their respective causes in front of an audience of 11 'pitch partners', including our Rotary Club.

After hearing all the groups and carefully deliberating, we allocated \$500 each to the following organisations:

- **3081 Angels;**
- **Araluen's Chancez Café at Possum Hollow;**
- **Olympic Village Bell Bardia Community Meal Service;**
- **Olympic Adult Education Alice House Home and Garden Care program**



3081 Angels

These donations were followed up by an additional donation of Club funds plus a matching grant from Rotary District to 3081 Angels.

3081 Angels addresses disadvantage for children in Banyule through collection of second-hand clothes and equipment and distribution to families in need.

3081 Angels is a partnership between Banyule Community Health and Rosanna Baptist Church. Working with Banyule Community Health, DHHS, Child Protection and five Refuges in the West Heidelberg area, clients are generally referred by a social worker, maternal health nurse or GP. The group has serviced approx. 1000 clients and is close to its 2000th request.

Our Club's donation will be used to purchase baby formula and car seats for distribution to needy clients.



Suzanne Crellin

3081 Angels Manager

RYLA - Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (Youth Services)

The Club once again sponsored a young person to attend the annual RYLA leadership camp.

This year our Rylarian was **Desty Ffitri Ramaghani**.

On Wednesday 11 Dec. Desty, accompanied by District 9790 RYLA chairperson Linda Gidlund and her RYLA support group, described her lifechanging experience at RYLA.



Desty Ffitri Ramaghani

Red Cross Broome Breakfast Club (Community Service)

One of our Club's dedicated on-going activities is provision of financial support to the Broome district schools breakfast clubs run by the Red Cross. Each week members donate to this cause at our regular meetings. We welcomed Kerry McGrath, coordinator of the program.

With a focus on the needs of aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, Red Cross assists more than 200 children through provision of nutritious meals and food security through its six school foodbanks and breakfast programs. Kerry reported that there is extreme poverty in the area, despite the glitzy tourism marketing. One challenge is to avoid any welfare stigma or feeling of shame associated with food charity.



Ross Pinney with Kerry McGrath

Red Cross is also providing basic food education and providing healthy meals through initiatives such as family Big Breakfasts. Specific programs are directed at youths aged 12 to 17 who have been involved in the justice system – the 'Young Warriors' project; support for siblings 8-12 years old through 'Budda Boys'; 17-25 year-olds in partnership with the Police Citizens Youth Club, and a young women's art group for 12-17 year-olds.

Another initiative is called 'Our Block Rocks!'. A bit like Neighbourhood Watch, but more pro-active to drive positive community activity in the 'block'.

We congratulated Kerry on her team's great work.

Site visit to community radio station

96.5 Inner FM (Vocational Service)

On Wednesday 21 August we visited community radio station Inner FM's studios, hidden in the less frequented corridors of Warringal Shopping Centre in Burgundy Street Heidelberg.

Hosted by station manager Greg King, a fellow Rotarian, we learnt how the station officially began operation on 10th December 1990 after two years of test broadcasting.

Classified as 'sub metro', 3INR broadcasts to the municipalities of Darebin, Manningham and Banyule and surrounding areas. There are over 70 licensed presenters and a similar number of programs on the station's schedule, with each presented responsible for program format and content. Music copyright is no barrier as the station pays a fee that allows broadcasting of any music, even from private collections.

The station aims to present a 'live' human voice every day between 7.00 am and 11 pm, and recorded music outside those hours.

Every Tuesday at 3pm – 4pm Rotary presents a program 'Rotary in Action', which is the longest-running Rotary radio program in the world!

Greg informed us that an annual survey has estimated the station has between 5000 and 8000 listeners (I presume not all at the one time), and 31 per cent of all working radios tune to community radio. Greg also explained an aim of the station is to promote local musicians.



Dave presenting the 'Retrolized Breakfast' show



Breakfast at Sam's Café with Greg King (front right)

Bushfire Relief – Walwa Bush Nursing Centre (Community Service)

The community around Walwa, located on the Victorian side of the Murray between Wodonga and Corryong, was badly affected by the New Year fires. The fire threatened the township several times, with the wind direction controlling the path of the flames.

Acting on a personal contact of one of our members, the Rotary Club of Ivanhoe made contact with Walwa Bush Nursing Centre Board of Management President Bron Smithwick and CEO Nurse Practitioner Sandi Grieve. The Centre provides medical and wellness services to the local community. As well as emergency triage, the Centre hosts visiting podiatrists, maternal and infant welfare support, physiotherapists and many other allied health services.

During the bushfire emergency the Bush Nursing Centre, because it had a generator and refrigeration, became the hub and "safe place" for locals, and fire fighters alike. The Centre opened its doors with staff providing medical help (burns and injuries from the fires), as well as feeding the firefighters as they came in for rest and sustenance. The kitchens also provided more than 600 meals for the townsfolk. Many had been evacuated twice and were quite traumatised, so having a safe, cool haven where they could be fed and watered was vital.

In response to the question 'How can we help?' Bron and Sandi provided a compelling list of projects that would help the Centre respond to the community's bushfire recovery needs.

Funds raised by the Rotary Club of Ivanhoe at its Bunnings summer BBQs were directed to purchasing much needed medical equipment for the Centre.

Our neighbouring Rotary Club of Heidelberg has also taken the opportunity to assist the Walwa Bush Nursing Centre by providing refrigeration equipment to replace what was damaged during the fires.

This is a wonderful example of Rotary Connecting People through linking of city and country communities.



Social functions

In keeping with Club tradition, on the fifth Wednesday of the month an evening social function was held in place of the normal breakfast meeting.

This year special evening dinners were held on

Wed 31 July – Christmas in July at the Old England Hotel

Wed 27 Nov – Early Christmas dinner at the Old England Hotel

Then to cap it off we all celebrated the calendar year with a fabulous dinner and party at Kevin and Ann's place.



Guest Speaker Program (not previously covered)

Frances Wright - Report back on Rotary International Conference

Frances gave a run down on the Rotary International Convention held in the first week of June in Hamburg, Germany. This was Frances and Aiden's ninth Rotary International Convention!



Despite 25,000 people attending, Frances reported that there was not the same level of “wow factor” as at Toronto. The convention was organised by themes — leadership and integrity, service, diversity and fellowship.

Frances' take-home messages were:

- We are part of a great international organisation with enormous capacity to make a difference in the world.
- Rotary is continuously developing new strategies. There was a strong presence of Rotaract. We should consider partnering with other local clubs to establish a Rotaract Group.
- Rotary's peace building program is paramount.

Joel Townsend - Victorian Legal Aid

Joel works in the Civil Justice program at Legal Aid Victoria.

He explained how a democratic society must have access to justice for people who cannot afford private advocacy. This concept has its roots back in the days of Henry VII. The King's Statute in 1495 was the genesis of a charitable model of the right to legal assistance. Following this notion, the Public Solicitors Office commenced in Victoria in the 1970s, and in 1981 the Legal Aid Commission of Victoria was created.



Joel with long-time friend David Balshaw

Legal Aid exists to promote the rule of law — we all have a stake in our legal system. Legal Aid Vic as a Statutory Authority using public money is concerned about public perception of legal aid, particularly when high profile cases like the appeal against the severity of the sentence given to Adrian Bailey. Joel explained that these were important tests of the integrity of the legal system and justified on this basis (the appeal was dismissed).

Legal Aid Vic can represent both Commonwealth and State matters, and gets funding from both Commonwealth and State. Legal Aid also works with other professional advisor groups, such as GPs.

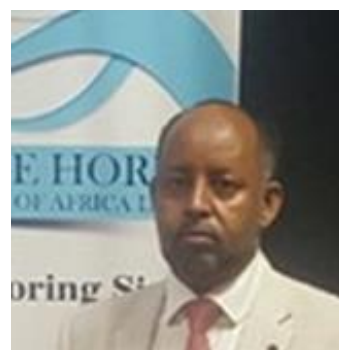
Joel commented that child protection and family violence were particular areas where the need for advocacy has grown.

Abdulaziz Abdisamad - Eyes for Horn of Africa

Dr Abdulaziz Abdisamad and Dr Amin Ali, who shared their passion for preventing blindness and improving eye health in Horn of Africa countries Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan.

Abdulaziz told us how he was so concerned about the state of eye health in his homeland Somalia that he founded the charity 'Eye for the Horn of Africa' to raise money and resources to do something practical about the issue.

Amin departed Somalia when 3 years old. Arriving in Australia he eventually studied biomedical science at Latrobe University followed by optometry at Melbourne University. He now works in our local area as an optometrist.



Dr Abdulaziz Abdisamad

There are some 285 million people vision-impaired worldwide, with 90% of them living in developing countries. 80 per cent of blindness is preventable or treatable. Apart from refractive error (42%) which can be corrected by spectacles, the main causes of blindness are cataracts (33%), glaucoma (2%) and diabetic retinopathy (1%). 140,000 people in Somalia are either blind or suffer low vision. 14,000 new cases are added yearly.

An astounding fact is that if young children develop short or long-sightedness as their bodies develop, it must be corrected before the child reaches 9 years of age. If not, the brain becomes locked into blurred vision and this cannot be reversed – a condition commonly called 'lazy eye'.

Future programs planned by 'Eye for the Horn' include:

Purchase of an I-care Tonometer, which measures eye pressure (\$5,500) and an operation microscope (\$15,000); cataract outreach camp - \$100 per eye; school screening and glasses program - \$3 per student.

The next trip to Africa is planned for end Nov 2019, the aim being to perform 1000 surgeries. This will involve 3 or 4 optometrists from Australia plus local doctors in Africa. A fantastic initiative!

Kevin Ritchie

Tales from the Outback — NT and far North Qld in a VW Caddy

Kevin shared some of his and Ann's experiences on their five-week 9,000 km road trip to NT and far north Qld. travelling in their VW Caddy van.



Close to the real geographical centre — a turn off the old Ghan railway

Emma Read - Good Karma Networks

Emma Read, a criminologist, understands the importance of community connectedness in preventing the root cause of crime.

Two years ago, after breaking her leg, Emma needed help with a few simple things like meals. Recognising the potential good that could come from a mechanism that enabled neighbours to ask for help with no strings attached, she got together with her friend Jess to address the issue of disconnect within the local community. The result was the Heidelberg Good Karma network – a Facebook group that provides people living or working in the Heidelberg – Watsonia – Ivanhoe area a platform to connect with each other in a safe way.



Emma with Beverley Sheppard

Br Harry Prout - Olympic Village Exodus Community

A Marist Brother, Harry together with a Sister of Mercy, Christian Brother and a couple of others started the Exodus Community nearly 20 yrs ago. The concept was to minister at the grass roots level by living within a disadvantaged community. Now the Community has grown to include 50 volunteers.

Br Harry told how he was instrumental in saving four council-owned houses in the Olympic Village area of West Heidelberg earmarked for demolition. IN the face of considerable adversity, Harry mustered enormous support from businesses and private benefactors to convert the derelict houses into homes for very needy families and individuals.



Jeff Percy and Br Harry

Lisa Wait

Your online journey - Cyber security for remote communities

Lisa took us behind the scenes to unveil the secrets to development of an app. In this case, the subject was 'Your Online Journey' – an app aimed at indigenous communities to teach the basics of computers, tablets, smartphones, and the many perils of the internet.

The project evolved through collaboration between the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the eSafety Commissioner. Typical of government projects, the brief was impossible and the timeline unachievable, such that no commercial software developer submitted a tender for the \$450,000 project.

Here enter Lisa and Kangan Institute to rescue the project.

A multi-talented and highly competent team was assembled to produce the app. There were some 800 screens to be developed, with clear messages that used appropriate language, while complying with government quality guidelines. The result was road tested with aboriginal communities at Hay NSW and Coober Pedy SA before finalisation. Hopefully the outcome will be more digitally aware aboriginal communities that are less vulnerable to unscrupulous scammers and other internet nasties.

Carl Bicknell - A look at Rotary's campaign to eradicate polio.

World Polio Day 24 Oct 2019

President Carl presented on Rotary's campaign to end polio. For more than 30 years Rotary and partners have driven the effort to eradicate polio worldwide.

Rotary's PolioPlus program was the first initiative to tackle global polio eradication by vaccinating children on a massive scale. Rotary members have contributed \$1.9 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries from this paralysing disease. With our partners, we have reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent, from 350,000 cases in 125 countries in 1988 to just 33 cases caused by the wild virus in 2018.

And the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation matches Rotary's efforts on a two dollars for every one raised basis.



Ross Pinney (Red Cross) and President Carl supporting 'End Polio Now'

Dr Cam Raw - Tales from a Veterinarian

Cam told us how in 2009 he moved from Tasmania to Melbourne and enrolled at the University of Melbourne Vet School. He then worked with dairy cattle in the Rochester area before moving to the U.K. with his partner Cassie.

After returning to OZ, Cam started volunteer work in Arnhem Land – Gunbalanya, Elcho Island and

Milingimbi. The dog population was out of control with many associated problems – impacts on wildlife, litter, bites, diseases and animal cruelty. To compound these problems, dogs are embedded within aboriginal culture, incorporated into the kinship system and creation stories, and provide protection and hunting partners. Cam, himself of Aboriginal heritage, described how he and vet students worked closely with the indigenous communities to mitigate these difficult issues.



Jeff Percy with Dr Cam

Robert Stringer - West Papua Update

Robert, resident expert on all things related to West Papua, gave us an update on his travels to West Papua and time spent with the West Papuan people.

Certainly well off the tourist road, Robert described how his trip, which was a follow-up to his 2015 visit, was prompted by the official opening of the El Shaddai Pentecostal church in Wamena.

Robert explained that West Papua was a Dutch colony until 1962, and is now under Indonesian rule. Not all the local inhabitants are happy with this and there is a strong independence movement running beneath a façade of compliance. Supporters of the independence movement claim the way West Papua was handed over to Indonesia was not legally in line with UN processes, and are trying, without much success, to get West Papua on the UN Decolonisation list. They consider themselves “Melanesian not Indonesian”.

The country has a population of 4 million, half of which are Indonesian. With Indonesian migration around 3,000 per week, this fraction is growing. You can understand how many native West Papuans are concerned about the future of their culture and country.



Kevin Ritchie & Phil Lacy

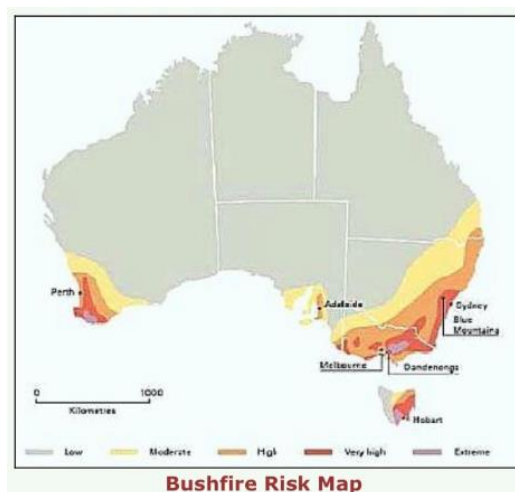
Burning the Bush — sunburnt country or burnt-out country?

Separating the smoke from the fire.

Our resident forestry experts Kevin Ritchie and Phil Lacy outlined some of the bushfire history of Australia, including the massive 1851 fires in Victoria through to 1926, Black Friday 1939, Ash Wednesday 1983, Alpine Fires of 2003 and 2006, and Black Saturday 2009. While these and many other major bushfires have caused extensive damage and considerable loss of life and property in our history, the extent and severity of bushfires since 2009 is unprecedented.

With live access to the current and latest technology, Phil connected into the maps showing where fires and hotspots were present while we talked, and demonstrated the extent of burnt areas across Australia for this season compared with last year.

This season's fires from Queensland all the way through NSW to Victoria have burned severely in areas which we have no knowledge of previous fires, and the intensity of these fires has been beyond the experience of people who have lived and worked in these areas all of their lives.



Clearly, the impacts of fire on the environment, on rural towns and communities, and on agriculture generally, are increasing beyond our capacity to respond as we have in the past. We need to look closely at fuel management on public and private land, at managing risk in rural and semi-rural living, and at how we respond to fires when they do occur.

Paul Morland

Community Gardens in Banyule

Award-winning landscape gardener Paul Morland (Morlandscapes) presented on the history of the Bellfield community gardens.

Paul took us through the beginning when the Ivanhoe community food garden was first established in 2011 near Ivanhoe Primary School.

When this site was closed in 2014, a new plot of land was made available in Oriel Road. Granted only \$4,000 to develop the bare grassed site, an enthusiastic group of member volunteers constructed raised garden beds, landscaping and group facilities.

This site has now been sold by the Council, but undeterred and showing tenacity and determination under Paul's leadership, the Bellfield Community Garden group has obtained a yet another new site adjacent to Waratah Special School. Paul has designed a most impressive facility complete with 41 fruit trees, 58 'foodcube' wicking bed plots and a 4m x 4m greenhouse, with Council support and approval.

The target date for opening the new community gardens is November 2021.



Kevin with Paul Morland

Erena and Richard Norris – Our Trip to Japan

On 18 March we had our first meeting under Covid-19 'social distancing' rules. No food, only tea & coffee, theatre style seating with chairs widely spaced—see below.

We enjoyed a talk by Erena Norris on her and Richard's holiday in Japan late last year. Lots of enchanting photos, rapidly becoming a memory of another world so near yet now so distant.



Corona Virus forces transition to ZOOM on-line meetings

18 March was our final in-person meeting, with such gatherings banned a few days later. So, with some trepidation on to plan B — a ZOOM club meeting was scheduled for the next Wednesday.

On Wednesday 25 March it was a great relief to have 13 members successfully participate in our first ever meeting via internet. Who said people over a certain age can't handle new technology?! Colin and Katy even saved on bandwidth by appearing together.

Our second ZOOM meeting on 1 April attracted 16 participants, including our Assistant Governor Emma Davis and special guest Rebekah Trachsel who gave a somewhat sobering update on Covid-19 from her perspective as a staff member at Austin Hospital.

At our third ZOOM meeting on 8 April Rebekah again provided a most informative update on Covid-19. The best news was the special Covid-19 wards were still mostly empty and the feared overwhelming of facilities had not eventuated, at least thus far. We also welcomed Stan Gorr, President of the Rotary Club of Rosanna. And we numbered 21 simultaneous participants, more than usually attending our physical meetings.



Giorgio Migliaccio - Destiny Rescue in a Covid-19 world

Giorgio thanked our Club for past support for Destiny Rescue and spoke about how the organisation's work rescuing children from the sex trade in countries including Cambodia, Laos and the Philippines has been affected by corona virus.

Bars and brothels have been locked down and closed. This has pushed the sex trade on line and encouraged street prostitution. Bad agents are now using Facebook and other apps. to sell children on line. This has posed challenges for Destiny Rescue's field operatives, who need to establish trust with the children using social media.

Some children are returned to their families in communities if safe to do so, others are kept in Destiny Rescue's own facilities.

There are always unexpected consequences from major shock events like Covid-19. In Asia the price of rice has increased, pushing more families into poverty. More children will be forced into the sex trade when restrictions are removed.

Giorgio explained that the textile industry cannot employ any person under 18 because of modern slavery laws, so the only other option for young teenagers needing to earn money is the sex trade.

Last year just under 1400 children were rescued.

Despite the difficulties this year is on target for 1600. 20 raids are lined up awaiting funding.



Bernie Bott - District 9790 Bushfire Relief

On Wednesday 6 May we welcomed Bernie Bott from the Rotary Club of Yarrowonga Mulwala, Chair of the District 9790 Bushfire Recovery Committee.

Unlike the 2009 fires this time most damage was caused to private property rather than community assets.

The committee has endeavoured to be fair to all in its distribution of aid to farmers. Initiatives so far have included pelletised feed for livestock, which has been distributed through established businesses with client bases, and empty containers for on-farm storage. Some \$25k has been committed to the containers project.

The committee is reluctant to report on costs of individual projects and available funds because of the risk of published figures being inaccurate or out of date. However, Bernie indicated that as a guide the District fund currently stands at about \$40k.

Bernie was strongly encouraged to include more specific details of current and potential projects in future newsletters, to make it easier for Clubs to identify projects they could help with by raising new or directing existing funds. Otherwise Clubs are likely to bypass the District and do their own projects in isolation.



Eleonore Weinstoerffer - Living in France under Covid-19

We delighted to welcome back Eleonore Weinstoerffer, our overseas exchange student from 2018-19, who joined our meeting via ZOOM from her home in France.

Eleonore told us how she has just completed her Year 12 studies and has secured a place at Bordeaux University to study French Law. It has been an unusual year with all her final school exams cancelled because of the Covid-19 restrictions. This meant that final results were derived from school-based assessment during the year and teacher reports. Eleonore expressed some disappointment with this outcome as she was hoping to obtain a high final score under the usual system but was deprived of the opportunity to do so.

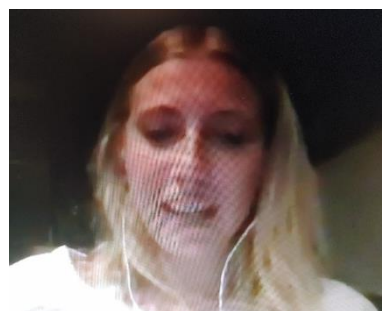
She will commence her three-year university course in September and this will be followed by two years post-graduate training before she is a fully qualified lawyer.

Regarding the Corona virus, Eleonore lives in Parentis-en-Born about 50 km south-east of Bordeaux, a semi-rural area near the Atlantic coast surrounded by parkland and green spaces. The impact of the virus has been much less than in Paris. She explained that initially people did not take the public health threat seriously enough, but once the death toll started to rise the Government brought in strong restrictions including only being allowed outside your home for one hour at a time to do essential shopping. Her father who is a carpenter was allowed to continue working but her mother who is a school administrator has had to stay at home.

One unfortunate side-effect of the virus has been the high number of dogs on the streets, abandoned by their owners because of fear the dogs could transmit the disease.

Like in Australia, the French Government has provided financial support to people unable to work because of the virus. Restrictions have now eased although the one metre separation rule still applies. On the more positive side, the Corona virus lockdown has meant less air pollution and less traffic on the roads.

Eleonore is looking forward to starting her university year in September. We wish her bonne chance and agreed we would keep in touch.



Cr Alison Champion, Mayor, City of Banyule

Adapting to the Coronavirus World

Alison explained how the Council Briefings are continuing on Monday nights using ZOOM, and how Council meetings are being held on line with seven councillors and only essential staff in the meeting room. The Municipal Association is working on changing rules to allow on line voting.



Most Council staff are working from home, although the CEO is in her office every day. There is currently no physical customer service desk. The Leisure Centre and Gym have been most badly affected by the Covid-19 shutdowns. However, capital works projects that were already underway are continuing with little impact on their expected completion dates.

Questioned about the Council's response to the North East Link, Alison informed us that there will be a Mediation session between Council and Eastlink lawyers, prior to a Court date set for 24 Sep. The Council is arguing that the State Government has not followed due process, has ignored the Independent Panel and are not following the plan that was put to the community.

In response to questioning about Council rates, Alison confirmed they would be increasing by two percent, similar to past increases notwithstanding curtailment of activities during Covid-19 restrictions. Alison explained that the allocated funding for intended events which did not go ahead this year, will be apportioned to those in the future. The exact amount or specific events has not been decided at this point and won't be until there is assurance about our lifestyle moving out of Covid-19 restrictions.

Regarding Council elections coming up, council is definitely going ahead with a postal-only voting option. There will be nine Single-councillor wards for this election. Although final boundaries have not yet been announced, it would appear the boundary between Chelsworth and Griffin wards could be The Boulevard.

Alison confirmed the Council's continuing commitment to the Rotary playground recycling program.

Prof Rinaldo Bellomo

Director of Intensive Care Research and Staff Specialist in Intensive Care at the Austin Hospital

Covid-19 Q&A Session



Professor Bellamo

On Wednesday 10 June we were most privileged to hear from Prof Rinaldo Bellomo, Director of Intensive Care Research and Staff Specialist in Intensive Care at the Austin Hospital. Many questions were put to Prof Bellomo, here is a summary:

Q. What are the most common Covid-19 symptoms? A. Loss of sense of smell is an important indicator and 20 – 30% of patients experience diarrhoea. Muscle aches and pains and general malaise are also symptoms.

Q. If you have flu symptoms what are the chances you have Covid-19?

A. If you have symptoms it is most probably something other than Covid-19. If you have respiratory symptoms it is best to isolate for a week or two and get tested.

Q. Why is Australia doing so well compared with USA and UK?

A. The public health system has failed in USA and UK and governments have behaved irresponsibly. Taiwan has had experience with SARS so its community is tuned into infectious disease control. They had been closely monitoring Chinese media and by 31 Dec 2019 had already detected something unusual going on in Hubei Province. This knowledge was then shared with international health authorities. The Australian response has been fantastic.

Q. Are ICUs in Australia back to normal?

A. The hospital enacts protocols for 'suspected Covid-19' until there are two negative swabs. Special hazmat suits are used during patient intubation. Expect it will take a month or two until we are back to normal.

Q. Why do only some people become sick?

A. We don't know. The protean ACE2 plays an important role in allowing the virus to enter cells. ACE2 is more strongly expressed in males, and also increases with age. Serology studies are showing that asymptomatic patient numbers are probably very high. It is likely that waves of infection last about 10-12 weeks as natural immunity develops, and then subsides.

Q. Is the method of transmission different from common cold or flu?

A. Covid virus remains viable in aerosols in a Petrie dish for about 2 hours. The best advice is to wash hands before going into a café or train etc, avoid touching your face, and wash hands or sanitise again when you leave.

Q. Are there effective treatments for Covid-19 infection?

A. Not really. Remdesivir has only a very mild effect. It decreases the duration of symptoms in people with mild disease but does not reduce risk of death in seriously ill patients.

Q. Do you become immune after being infected?

A. No one knows. Neutralising antibodies have been shown to last for about one month. It could be longer but there is not enough data yet.

Q. for how long do infected people remain infectious?

A. People shed the virus for up to one month even if well. You have to assume there are asymptomatic people carrying the virus.

Q. How reliable is nasal swab testing?

A. Nasal swabs do have limitations – if negative it means one is very unlikely to be carrying virus but limited sensitivity of the test can give false negatives.

Q. What is the expected outcome?

A. If we get 30 days with no new cases, then we are probably virus free. The problem will be people coming in to the country bringing new infection from overseas.

Q. When are we likely to get a vaccine?

A. The Chinese are moving to phase 2 vaccine studies. They have proven they can generate antibodies. We may get a vaccine by end of the year. Testing will be in India and Brazil. But it will be next year before vaccine is generally available. The best advice is to not get the virus.

Q. When will overseas travel be allowed?

A. Do not expect open skies until next year.

Q. What will the future be like?

A. 'Track and suppress' is the way of the future. The key is to quickly find isolate and test contacts of infected people.

Q. It has been reported that there are several strains of the virus in circulation. What impact will this have?

A. Genetic typing of virus has identified several strains, but nothing overly significant. Normally one would expect some genetic abnormalities given so many virus particles are generated.

Q. What do you think of Sweden's approach?

A. Sweden has been irresponsible. Despite a lack of lock-down, Sweden's economy has suffered like everyone else's. They could have saved many more people.

Q. Why has the per-capital death rate been so much higher in some countries?

A. The difficulty is in the classification of deaths. Belgium classifies deaths as anyone who dies during the epidemic, even if by stroke. Mortality figures are plus/minus 30 percent.

Q. What level of confidence can we put on Covid-19 statistics?

A. All statistics should be treated as false outside of western countries. Countries like India can't keep up with their data. Chinese data however is now quite accurate because the world is watching so closely.



Katy Richmond – How Rotary Works

It was fitting that our final meeting for the year featured a presentation by Katy Richmond, a long-time member of our Club and twice Past President.

Katy described the essentials of Rotary and provided a concise history of the Rotary Club of Ivanhoe.

For the record, here is the screen shot of the meeting.

