

Rotary Club of Fern Tree Gully Inc.

INCORPORATED REG. No. A0023463V
DISTRICT 9810 VICTORIA AUSTRALIA
CHARTERED GULLY, VIC 3156: 16th May, 1963

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WEEKLY BULLETIN

| Date & Time: | Thursday 19 th January [6.00 for 6.30] | Thursday 26 th January (6.00 for 6.30) | Thursday 2 nd February (6.00 for 6.30) | Thursday 9 th February (6.00 for 6.30) |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|
| Venue: | FTG Bowls Club | No Meeting | FTG Bowls Club | FTG bowls Club |
| &Program | | Aust Day | TBA | TBA |
| Speaker: | PLANNING FOR 2023 | | | |
| | | | | |
| Vote Of Thanks | | | | |
| Scribe: | GRAEME A | | | |





FROM THE PRESIDENT

FRAN'S FANFARE!

Hello everyone,

Wishing you all a happy and healthy year in 2023.

I for one am very glad to see the back of 2022 for several reasons.

My thanks to Sue & Graeme Harrison and Jill & Paul Wilson, for their hospitality and generosity in hosting our 2 "Fireside" meetings of the last 2 weeks.

They were a wonderful way to start this year and leave behind the trauma and tragedy of 2022, although events obviously remain with us in our hearts and minds, never to be forgotten.

My personal apologies to Sue & Graeme for not thanking them at the event on 5 January. That was most remiss of me and I am very sorry.

This week Brian and I may not be able to attend in person, as Brian has some serious dental work programmed for late Wednesday, which may leave him preferring to attend via Zoom instead.

Last Monday, Brian and I attended a meeting of the Phillip Island & San Remo Rotary Club, a very vibrant and hands-on club with quite a large membership base. In fact, in December, they inducted 11 new members.

We were made very welcome and they were interested in finding out the workings of our club, which we were happy to provide.

One issue that really surprised them was our use of the Zoom platform, especially when we explained that, not only did we use Zoom for our meetings, but we also took advantage of it to hold social events. Apparently, they had never considered Zoom use, even though the

Covid lockdowns we all had to endure. They were very impressed.

Of course, one of the very first questions they asked us was – "what about transferring to OUR Club as you live here now?" We politely advised them we are dedicated to and love not only the Club, but our wonderful friends, who mean the world to us.

However, as true Rotarians we are most willing to help them out with their projects and attend their meetings on a fairly regular basis.

Whilst it is somewhat difficult sometimes to come up to the Gully for meetings, we are lucky to have the advantage of Zoom – not the same thing of course, but better than nothing.

As you have probably all realised, we are at a stage where it is critical to have a President-Elect for the forthcoming Rotary Year.

I will not be able to continue as President for that year.

I am therefore asking everyone of you to dig deep and genuinely consider whether YOU would be prepared to fill that role, either solely OR as a Co-President with another member.

The Co-Presidency fulfilled by Christine and Graeme A for 2021/22 seemed to work exceptionally well, with co-operation, give and take, and a willingness to work together.

That is certainly an option for you to bear in mind and consider.

Alternatively, the year split into 2 halves would work as well.

I realise we are all busy with family commitments, need to go away on holidays at times, and participate in other things in life apart from Rotary.

But, if we cannot find a President for 2023/24 then we are faced with the prospect of having to hand back our Charter and disband, which would be a

great shame, especially considering the great successes we have had and the respect we have earned in many spheres.

Therefore, I am pleading with you all to talk this over with family and friends and try to resolve this important issue.

Looking forward to "zooming in" with you on Thursday!

Fran

Upcoming Events

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 10 th Feb | Bunnings Sausage Sizzle |
| 12 th Feb | Greek Picnic (Ferny Creek) |
| 3 rd – 5 th Mar | District Conference |
| 10 th Mar | Bunnings Sausage Sizzle |
| 2 nd April | Vintage Bikes Breakfast & BBQ |
| 25 th April | Anzac Dawn Service - Quarry Reserve |
| 30 th June | Changeover |

RI president-elect announces 2023-24 presidential theme

Rotary International President-elect R. Gordon R. McNally called for members to capture the world's attention and lead the way toward possibilities far beyond our current expectations.

McNally, a member of the Rotary Club of South Queensferry, West Lothian, Scotland, revealed the 2023-24 presidential theme, *Create Hope in the World*, during the Rotary International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, USA, on 9 January. He urged



members to promote peace in troubled nations, help those affected by conflict, and maintain the momentum of initiatives begun by past leaders.

Watch the theme address

"The goal is to restore hope — to help the world heal from destructive conflicts and, in turn, to help us achieve lasting change for ourselves," McNally said at Rotary's annual training event for incoming district governors.

McInally spoke about a woman he met in Ban Taling Chan, Thailand, where Rotary members helped build houses, a meeting hall, and childcare and health care facilities following the tsunami that devastated South Asia in late 2004. The woman had lost her husband, her daughter, and her son in the tsunami, as well as her livelihood. But she still had a gift to offer McInally: a beautiful seashell.

"She went on to tell me that Rotary... had restored her optimism. We gave her hope," McInally said.

"This is how Rotary brings lasting change to the world," he added, "one restored or newly created hope at a time."

Promoting peace

A significant way to bring hope to the world is to put a greater emphasis on peace, McInally said. He cited the action Rotary members have taken in the past year to support the people of Ukraine after the invasion by Russia. Rotary has made humanitarian relief a priority, attracting more Ukrainian members in the process. But McInally noted that true relief won't come without peace — not just in Ukraine, but in Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria, and dozens of other places around the globe.

"Peace is the soil where hope takes root," McInally said.

McInally also emphasized the power of continuity, calling for Rotary members to continue the work of some past leaders. He pledged to maintain the Empowering Girls initiative launched by 2020-21 President Shekhar Mehta and uphold the emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout Rotary. He also noted recent events that underscore the importance of Rotary's continuing focus on polio. In the past year, polio cases have emerged in many areas around the world, making it more crucial than ever for Rotary members to lead the fight against the disease.

To do that, McInally said, Rotary must continue to raise at least US\$50 million each year to receive the full 2-to-1 funding match

from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Only about 1 in 12 members currently gives to the polio eradication campaign, with fewer than 1 in 5 clubs donating each year.

McInally asked the district governors-elect for support creating a new sense of urgency in their clubs to help realize Rotary's vision of a polio-free world. "This is the time for us to go beyond what's necessary year to year and make sure we provide every resource necessary to succeed as quickly as possible," he added.

Focusing on mental health

In addition, McInally said, Rotary members should offer hope to those affected by mental health challenges — a crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people have lost family members, many more have found their social networks uprooted, and young people especially have had their educational and developmental paths interrupted. As a result, more people around the world are facing mental health issues. And yet, seeking assistance is often perceived as a sign of weakness.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," McInally said. "Reaching out for help is courageous — and continuing on a path toward wellness is even more so."

He added that Rotary will work to improve mental health services in the next year and beyond. Rotary should be known as an organization that takes care of its members as well as the people it serves, McInally said. "Any mental health professional will tell you that by helping others, we essentially help ourselves."

McInally ended his speech by describing his ideal balance of continuity and innovation. "Rotary helps create the conditions for peace, opportunity, and a future worth living," he said. "By continuing what we do best, by remaining open and willing to change, and by keeping our focus on building peace in the world and within ourselves, Rotary helps create a more peaceful world — a more hopeful world."

Gifts collected from Ray White Ferntree Gully and delivered to Foothills for distribution to children attending their annual Christmas luncheon. Our club and Steve Barrington is very appreciative of the donations made each year by the generous staff of Ray White

