

Presidents Report

I am not one for long goodbyes so I will keep this brief. It has been a great year and I am proud of all we have accomplished together. Look out for the club's annual report which will be available at changeover night. Thanks to everybody who contributed a piece and to David Lea who has done a marvellous job in pulling it all together.



I am looking forward to handing the club presidency on to Heather Chisholm, I know we will be in good hands. It looks like we will have 88 people for our changeover night dinner; it should be quite a celebration. Heather and her team have done a great job in organising the evening.

On a more basic note, Rotary annual dues are now due. If you have not already paid please do so as soon as possible, so we know how many members we have for 2018 -19. Payment should be made direct into the club general account with your name as reference.

On Saturday, a group of us went to the community open day at the new Beaumaris Secondary College. It is certainly an impressive facility and I hope we will be able to develop close links with the college. Kerrie has registered the club's interest in being involved with the college's operation.

Finally, a very personal reflection. On Wednesday whilst out racing on the Bay we were circled by a flock of pelicans, had seals bobbing up for a look-see, saw fairy penguins chasing a school of bait fish and had two dolphins playing in our bow wave for a good 10 minutes. We are so lucky to live in such a great place. Let's make sure we do all we can to help others enjoy it too.

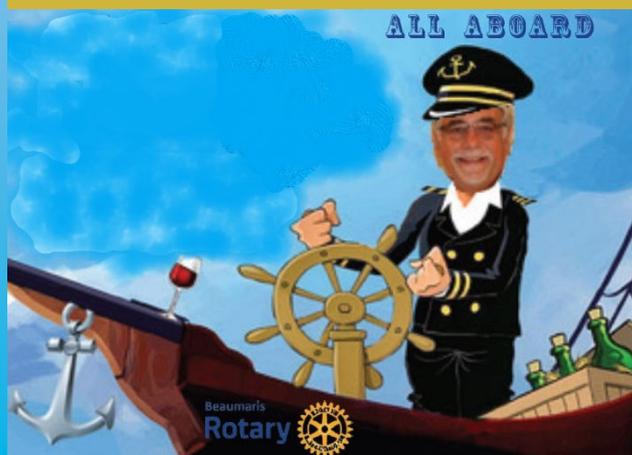
Enjoy your week, try to keep warm and I will see you at changeover on Thursday.

Yours in Rotary
Chris



Next Meetings

THURSDAY 28 JUNE
CHANGEOVER NIGHT
6:30 FOR 7:00 @ VGC



THURSDAY 5 JULY

FELLOWSHIP

ORGANISED BY JIM O'BRIEN

DETAILS TBA

THURSDAY 12 JULY

SPEAKER: DR ADRIAN BERTOLINI

TOPIC: INTUYU CONSULTING

CHAIR: DAVID RUSHWORTH

AV: DAVID LEA

CASH DESK: CHRIS WERNER & VIVIENNE ZOPPOLATO

Unless stated otherwise venue is
Victoria Golf Club 6.30 for 7.00

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COMMUNITY GARDEN

Rotarians will be pleased to know that the Community Garden project instigated by Heather and financially supported by our Rotary Club at St Stephen's, Gardenvale is going very well.

I attended a meeting last Thursday at St Stephen's, looking at the future. It was well attended by some 15 people and the President Martyn Thomas outlined what the committee had in mind for the future. The emphasis now will be to involve more people than the 30 plot holders. To this end, they will designate plots relinquished, for whatever reason as "Community Plots". Community members will then pay an annual subscription, which will entitle them to have produce from the Community plots, also they will be encouraged to attend working bees to maintain the community areas.

New developments have included a huge water tank and a greenhouse for all to use, especially to raise seedlings. Bunnings have donated a flash new Barbeque. We have the use of a Church renovated room and kitchen for meetings once a month, generously made available by St Stephen's. They also wanted us to know the Church is running a "Christmas in July" on 1st July.

We now have a newsletter distributed to members to keep us up to date.

More information David Greenall



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Speaker: Michelle Ridsdale

Topic: Gecko Hangout

Note: As I was unable to attend I have included Michelle's full presentation notes in full. Ed.



“My name is Michelle Ridsdale and I'm the founder of Gecko Hangouts, a social and work-readiness program for teenagers and young adults.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting. I pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Elders from other communities who may be here today.

I would also like to thank the Beaumaris Rotary Club for their generosity in the recent grant provided to help establish this program and for inviting me to speak tonight.

This wouldn't have been possible without the tireless assistance from Ros Porter, Program Manager at the Castlefield Community Centre. Ros has been instrumental in assisting me to find the Program Leader as well as various volunteers. Castlefield Community Centre are also providing the venue to Gecko Hangouts.

About Me

I'm a parent of a teenager with Autism

I'm also Head of People & Culture at a Technology Company

And the Founder of Shifting Mindsets & Gecko Hangouts

A personal story

Nick is 14.5 years old

Diagnosed at the age of 4 years old after two years of various assessments from speech, behavioural psychologists and the multi-disciplinary assessment.

He had early Intervention from the age of 3 years

Attended mainstream kinder with a fulltime teaching aide

Nick started in mainstream primary but due to behaviour difficulties we then moved him to Currajong for three years. Currajong is a school that helps children with social/emotional difficulties but has a mainstream curriculum

Nick then transitioned to mainstream Primary for grades 4, 5 & 6 with almost fulltime support.

Three years ago, Nick started high-school; was early going through puberty; and changing schools

He had significant challenges of keeping up with the academic work and a lot of trouble making friends

This has resulted in an extremely difficult period which has caused him severe anxiety requiring hospitalisation this past year for five months

A lot of this anxiety is a result of not having any social interactions and no friends.

We'd previously tried school holiday programs, after-school programs and sporting programs, however we found these unsuccessful.

We have also tried some of the special needs programs, whilst these are fantastic programs and very well supported by the disability sector - Nick didn't enjoy these as he doesn't see his Autism as a disability.

This means that Nick ultimately has very few friends. He is well aware of this and observes his siblings who have friends over and go to see their friends.

He can see how confident his sister is which creates significant tension between them at times. This is not unusual in many families who have a child with Autism.

About 1 in 150 people have Autism in Australia. The research indicates the transition from school to adult life is one of the most difficult to traverse for young people with Autism.

Unlike the Autism diagnosis and early intervention, there is little funding, guidance and support available for teenagers and young adults with autism, particularly post the school years.

Fewer than 1 in 6 people with Autism are in fulltime employment and the current participation rate for people with Autism in the workforce is 42%.

This compares with 53% participation rate for people with disabilities and 83% for people without disabilities.

We know people on the Autism Spectrum have an amazing set of skills and can bring an enormous amount of value to the workplace more than half have an above average IQ and usually have a strong skill in their area of passion (special interest).

Autism (or Neurodiversity) is also a categorization of identity that is often overlooked and misunderstood in the workplace.

From the interview processes to decision making, most of

our workplace environments are built around things like eye contact, noisy group work, and generally over-stimulating settings—in other words, they are built for more “neurotypical” people.

Over 60% of employers said they worry about getting support for an autistic employee wrong, and an equal number say they do not know where to go for advice, however as you may have seen recently there are a number of larger technology companies that are establishing programs for employing people with Autism.

Some research about those with anxiety

In terms of young people, research has indicated that children with ASD are more anxious, withdrawn and have more severe social and attention problems compared with other children

Teachers similarly rated students with an ASD as being more anxious, withdrawn, depressed, inattentive, hyper-active, oppositional and aggressive.

There are consistently higher rates of anxiety amongst students with ASD than seen in typically developing students, and those with language disorder or intellectual disability (but without ASD)

What I’ve learned about young people with Autism & social skills

They want to be accepted

They are often very aware of their differences and as a result can become very anxious around typically developing peers

Often due to their differences than can be treated differently by their peers but also teachers and can be excluded from regular activities because of their “behaviour”

Our purpose is to create inspiring futures for people with Autism

We know individuals with Autism, particularly those who have a high-level of function often fall through the gaps in mainstream education and other community & sporting eco-systems

Gecko Hangouts is a social network for teens and young adults with Autism. The aim of the program is help facilitate positive relationships, provide essential work-readiness and life-skills and of course to have fun!

Like Early Intervention is to pre-school children, we want Gecko Hangouts to become life-changing for our teens and young adults.

We are aiming to improve wellbeing through linking individuals with the community. We want to provide them

with that social connectedness

We also want to have a positive impact on their life prospects through our ability to develop their skills, so they are more likely to enter the workforce

We would love to see the group expand over the next twelve months to other locations around Melbourne but in the future, we’d love to have purpose built centres where individuals can attend the program but have the ongoing support during the day.

An unstructured program to some extent

We want something without the specific requirements dictated by the school system

We will support our participants with dedicated mentors

Each term will have a different focus

Life-Skills – cooking, gardening, money management, ball skills

Work-Readiness – Coding, building a café, Interview skills

Social skills – fun, networking with like-minded people

Each group will have a maximum of 8-10 participants with the Group Leader and 1-2 volunteers

And how we came up with the name?

Nick loves lizards, reptiles and technology – hence Geckos and Hangouts for Google Hangouts/Social Networking

What support do we need?

We have hired a Program Leader and a volunteer, and the first group commences in Term 3. The focus area for this program is creating a café

We are still looking for other Program Leaders or Mentors to help run specific skill-based activities such as gardening; computer programming.”



RCOB Club Structure 2017 - 2018

RCOB Board.

President.	Chris D'Arcy
President Elect.	Heather Chisholm
Hon Secretary.	James Glenwright
Hon Treasurer.	Richard Jones
Projects Director.	Roy Seager
Immediate PP.	Malcolm Sawle
Independent Director.	Vivienne Zoppolato

International. John Sime (Chair)

Fred Hofmann	John Manks
Ken Mirams	Ross Phillips
Robert McArthur	Clem Quick

Youth. Chris Martin (Chair)

Jan Cooper	Lois Lindsay
Tony McKenna	David Rushworth
Vivienne Zoppolato	Bridget Hage

Event Management.

Jim O'Brien	Martin Fothergill
Robert McArthur	Geoff Stringer

District Service.

Youth Services.	Tony McKenna
Membership.	Trish Smyth
Assistant Governor.	Ken Mirams

Club Service & Administration.

Attendance & Dining.	Heather Chisholm
Foundation.	John Manks
Program.	Lynda Douch
Membership.	Adrian Culshaw
Fellowship.	Megan Glenwright
Auditor.	Tony Phillips
Club Protection Officer.	Ken Mirams
Communications.	David Lea
Social Media.	Kerry, Lynda & Trish
Archivist.	John Beaty
Almoners.	Lois Lindsay, Charmaine Jansz
Marketing & PR	Peter Flude
Club Photographer.	Max Darby

Community. Chris Werner (Chair)

Mary Cunnington	Max Darby
Martin Fothergill	Kerry Geard
Tony Phillips	Roy Downes
Mary Sealy	John Beaty
Richard Shermon	Chris Mara

Market Management.

Vivienne Zoppolato (co-ordinator)	
Heather Chisholm	Ken Mirams
Greg Every	Peter Flude

Indigenous.

David Hone (Chair)
Heather D'Arcy (Trachoma)

LEAPS AND BOUNDS

A Shikoku named Hai-ley runs through a forest in the Netherlands. The show dog belongs to friends of Your Shot photographer Judith Vrugt. "I really like to work with these kind of dogs," she says. "They always make you laugh and give you surprising moments to capture."

