

## Dear Fellow Rotarians and Friends

I sincerely hope that you and your loved ones are well, and doing whatever you need to feel safe and connected at this incredibly challenging time.

Not only has COVID-19 had serious health and economic ramifications, it has required us to adhere to strict social distancing measures to slow its spread. We are returning to some activities but recovery means erring on the cautious side.

I have been busy with ROTARY matters from organizing good speakers for our meetings, Fire Side Chat, visiting members that I can, a quick phone check-in, committee meetings and so on.

It is said COVID -19 has slowed things down, what slow down I ask, I am busier than ever, working from home and zoom meetings have no boundaries and people encroach on ones lives any time. In addition I am always trying to identify ways to support our members and friends during this extremely challenging period.

Many notable events were low key such as volunteer week – Our thanks to the unseen army of volunteers at ROTARY and wider community who give their time and skills to enhance and uplift the life of the community.

While the COVID-19 outbreak left many Australian companies reeling from its economic and social impacts, some leading practice employers found themselves in the enviable position of being able to transition their entire strong workforce to virtual working within just a week- a seamless pivot. Some had plans for the virtual office, equipping them with the necessary resources and mind-set to scale up as the crisis unfolded.

In my business life many companies have indicated that at this time of crisis, people need more direction and more instruction than they would normally need even though good cultures of 'empower and trust' are in place staff are asking for more direction through this.

This pandemic has forced the majority of our society into self-isolation, and we are now working and 'socialising' from home at an unprecedented level. Technological advancements such as e meetings, zoom have been praised for helping keep us all connected. But is it possible to substitute face-to-face interaction and are there long-term implications of depriving people of our fundamental need to socialise - in person?

Many of you know I sit on the Board of Lifeline, COVID-19 is the challenge of our lives. Isolation and anxiety have soared. This has been a particularly difficult time for some, while we're all affected, for some people it's going a lot deeper, triggering feelings of fear, isolation and anxiety. Right now Lifeline is answering more calls than ever before: at 3,000+ a day, we've never experienced such a sustained spike in calls for help. One every 30 seconds from someone feeling so desperate and alone that they may take their own life. Through those cracks in our feelings of safety, Lifeline is here to help calm the fear. But we have never been more concerned because this is only going to increase as the grief and stress of financial and social isolation grow.

As the President of SHARE Inc apart from delivering food hampers and cooked meals to vulnerable participants and general community, we commenced zoom exercise for groups, catch-ups, mental health support mechanisms, well-being activities and utilising technology to maintain communication between participants and teams. Many older people had to be trained in new skills like Zoom and if they did not have the tools SHARE provided these. Naturally it is not the same as face to face but we do what we can.

At Nutrition Australia NSW we are delivering food hampers, quick easy heathy recipes, online cooking via zoom “Cook with me at Home’ and engaged in social media with helpful hints.

The Fijian community were able to send funds to the Prime Minister of Fiji’s relief fund to help and further assistance with equipment and food.

Our Governments at various levels are helping as much as possible with stimulus packages, services and infrastructure. Our thoughts always turn to those less fortune and we cannot help but ask such questions such as how does the Government try to keep the coronavirus out of remote settlements with rudimentary medical facilities? How has the pandemic affected the daily lives of people living in some of Australia’s most challenging environments and are Aboriginal communities complying with restrictions.



Thank you to those who have made a donation to our Centenary project “**ROTARY Give Every Child A Future**” it is appreciated. If you are considering a donation this June as part of tax time giving please consider our project, I have sent an **appeal letter**.

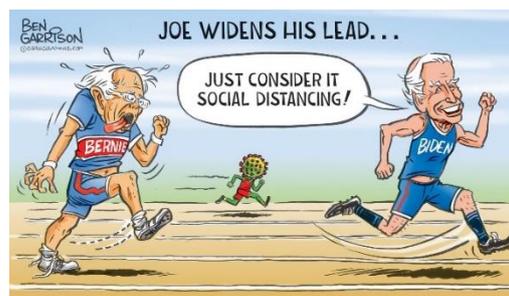
I take this time to thank God for all of you who have been a great support to me and acknowledging how difficult it must be for me. Thank You! My faith in God gives me courage, energy and sustains me.

My friends, as always my thoughts and prayers are with all that are affected by COVID-19 and all of you and your loved ones. Our lives will return to normal or otherwise but we as Rotarians will always be here to encourage and support each other and others. God Bless!



Warmest Regards - Yours in Rotary Service

Barbara



## 2023 Rotary International Conference



### And the winner is Melbourne!

It is with great excitement that we announce Melbourne as the host city for the 2023 Rotary International Convention, the largest conference secured this century for Victoria.

Melbourne is a Big Events City! Set to deliver over \$88 million to the Victorian economy, the Convention is the most valuable conference ever won for the state, with the four-day event anticipated to attract more than 20,000 Rotarians from around the world. The global spotlight will be on Melbourne and how we present ourselves to the world.

The Convention will take place **27-31 May 2023** using superb venues; Rod Laver Arena and the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre. All activities and events are within the Heart and Soul of Melbourne. Over 7000 hotel rooms over 50 properties across Melbourne. Our transport plan uses our famous trams, ferries and buses to quickly and easily move delegates between venues, hotels, event and restaurants. And of course, Melbourne is a very walkable city with many interesting routes and laneways to tantalise visitors

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## Rotaract Rising

**At midnight on 30 June**, hundreds of Rotaractors will ring in the new Rotary year together. They'll also be celebrating Rotaract's ongoing evolution, including the expansion of Rotary membership to include Rotaract clubs.

Rotary programs include: Interact, Rotary Youth Exchange, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, New Generations Service Exchange, Rotary Peace Fellowships, and Rotary Community Corps

Rotaract's elevated status within the organization was approved by Rotary's Council on Legislation in 2019 as part of an ongoing effort to make Rotary more appealing and welcoming to young professionals.

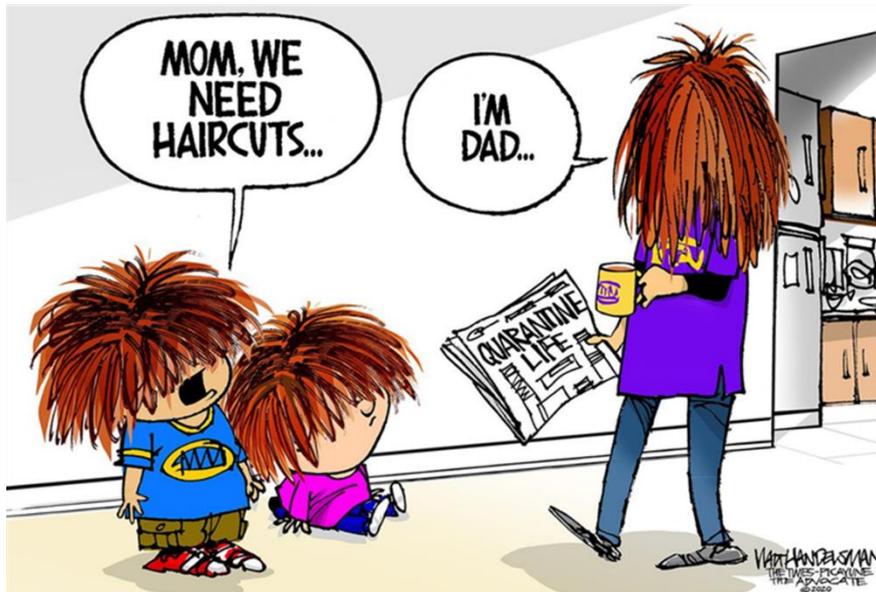
On the advice of the task force, the RI Board of Directors in October approved several changes to Rotaract — the most notable being the removal of Rotaract's upper age limit. As of 1 July, members of Rotaract will no longer be required to leave their club when they turn 31. Clubs will still be able to set their own age limit, if they wish.

Rotaract clubs will be able to take advantage of products and services such as new leadership development resources from Toastmasters International, updated online goal-setting tools, and an improved online club administration experience.

Other changes: New Rotaract clubs won't have to rely on a Rotary club to sponsor them; they can now sponsor themselves or choose another Rotaract club as their sponsor. And Rotaractors are now eligible — and encouraged — to serve alongside Rotarians on district and RI committees.

In 2022, annual dues of \$5 per person for university-based Rotaract clubs and \$8 for community-based clubs will be introduced to cover the cost of additional support for Rotaract clubs. RI will work to develop and promote alternative funding sources to help Rotaractors pay dues, including fundraising opportunities.

# Laugh break



Day 7 of SOCIAL Distancing: Struck up a conversation with a spider today. Seems nice. He's a web designer.



For More Funny Quotes Visit:  
[www.bizwaremagic.com](http://www.bizwaremagic.com)

# Highlights of Rotary e-meetings – MAY

## Speaker: Dr James Muecke AM Australian of the Year for 2020

His commitment to social impact and humanitarian endeavors has earned him a string of awards including an Order of Australia in 2012, the Australian Medical Association's President's Leadership Award in 2013, and Ernst & Young's Social Entrepreneur for Australia in 2015. James is Australian of the Year for 2020.



## 26<sup>th</sup> May - Dr James Muecke AM



No Recording Available



## Speaker: Geoff Donaghy CEO, ICC Sydney

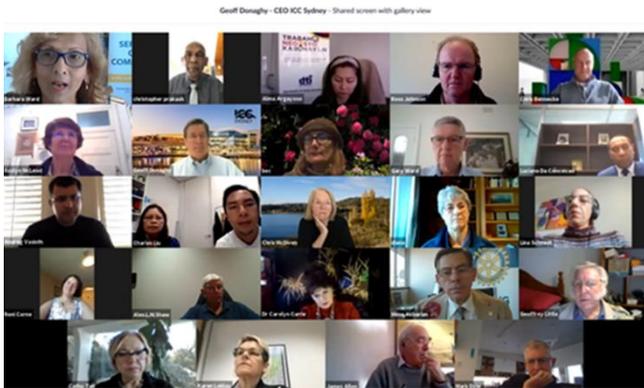
Geoff Donaghy is CEO of Australia's premier convention, exhibition and entertainment venue, ICC Sydney, which since its opening has been wowing local, national and international visitors with its focus on high-quality, local produce and commitment to service excellence..



## 19<sup>th</sup> May – Geoff Donaghy



Meeting Recording:



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# Highlights of Rotary e-meetings – MAY

Distinguished Guest Speaker: Mark Scott AO  
Secretary, NSW Department of Education

## Education and the Challenge of Change, in a COVID-19 World

Mark Scott AO is the Secretary of the NSW Department of Education and has a distinguished record in public service, education and the media. The department is the largest education system in Australia, operating 2,200 public schools for almost 800,000 students



12<sup>th</sup> May – Mark Scott AO with Special Presentation By PDG Harold Sharp - Chairman ROMAC

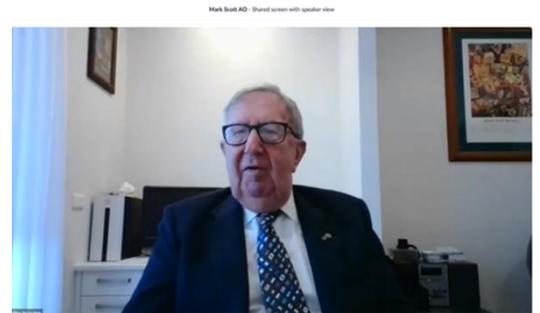


Meeting Recording:

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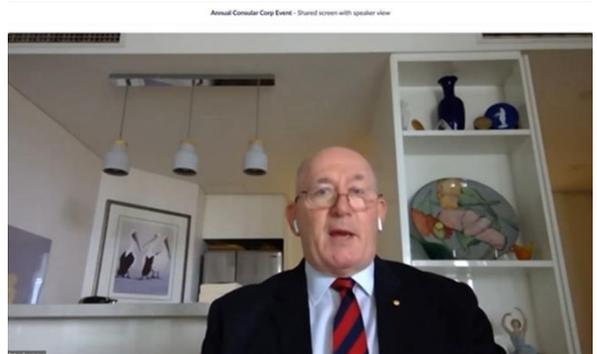
I am also delighted to announce that we are privileged to have PDG Harold Sharp, Chairman, ROMAC join us, prior to the conclusion of the meeting. Harold will give us a quick update of ROMAC and also share a 10 minute video.



Rotary Club of Sydney Annual Sydney Consular Corp



5<sup>th</sup> May – Annual Consular Corp



Meeting Recording:

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# Highlights of “Fireside Chats” – MAY



To keep people connected during this time the “Shaken Not Stirred” Friday night get together was introduced.

It is wonderful to see many join us particularly members from other clubs including far North.

**Thank you for joining us!**

**Friday Drinks | 6:00 pm**      **INVITATION**

Rotary Club of Sydney - “Shaken not Stirred” - is a special event for Sydney Rotarians, family, friends and business associates to catch up and exchange stories each Friday.



**Exciting News** – we will launch Rotary Club of Sydney’s new website – not to be missed.

Be dazzled by what you will see, demonstration by Rotarian Cathy Tait Project Coordinator, Team from 4mation Rotarian -Dane Eldridge and Steve Tait. You will love it!

## 22nd May – Website Launch

A first “Shaken No Stirred” coincided with the launch of our new website.

Cathy Tait took us through the various sections of the website and highlighted the changes that have been implemented, we have a fantastic website.

Thank you to Cathy, 4 mation team and everyone who contributed to this project a fantastic team effort.

Following this link to view: <https://sydneyrotary.com/>



**29th May – “Shaken No Stirred”**  
Let’s chat – we all had a good year about what is happening in our lives and naturally tried to solve the world’s problem. Wonderful fellowship. Thank you all that joined us.

**Friday Drinks | 6:00 pm**      **INVITATION**

# Upcoming Rotary e-meetings – JUNE

## 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons



### Vocational Services Award Presentation

**Recipient and Guest Speaker  
Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons**



Commissioner of Resilience NSW Shane Fitzsimmons was appointed as the inaugural Commissioner for Resilience NSW and Deputy Secretary, Emergency Management with the Department of Premier and Cabinet from 1 May 2020. This appointment followed a distinguished career with the NSW Rural Fire Service of over 35 years.

## 9<sup>th</sup> June – Hon Paul Fletcher MP

**Guest Speaker: Hon Paul Fletcher MP  
Federal Member for Bradfield  
Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts**



**Topic: NBN/5G and Innovation**

Paul entered Parliament in December 2009 as the Member for Bradfield; was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Communications in September 2013; Minister for Major Projects, Territories, and Local Government in September 2015; Minister for Urban Infrastructure in July 2018; Minister for Urban Infrastructure and Cities in December 2017; Minister for Families and Social Services in August 2018 and was appointed to his present role in May 2019.

## 16<sup>th</sup> June – Lorraine Tarabay

**Guest Speaker: Lorraine Tarabay  
Chairman Elect – Museum of Contemporary Art**

Lorraine is currently Deputy Chairman and Chairman Elect of the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (MCA). She also serves as Chair of the MCA's Director's Circle and is a member of the Finance Committee, Nominations Committee and Foundation Council (a group of individuals who secure philanthropic support for new acquisitions for the MCA Collection).



## 23<sup>rd</sup> June – Dr Pradeep Philip

**Guest Speaker: Dr Pradeep Philip  
Lead Partner, Deloitte Access Economics**

[Update on the Economic Effect of COVID-19, Now and into the Future](#)

Pradeep is the Lead Partner for Deloitte Access Economics. He has had a long and successful career in public policy, with deep expertise in economics and proven leadership experience. Pradeep has been a senior bureaucrat, working at the highest levels of public policy, across three jurisdictions in Australia.



He holds a PhD in Economics and Bachelor of Economics (Hons) from the University of Queensland.



### Paul Harris Fellow Presentation

Join us to congratulate & celebrate Rotary Club of Sydney's presentation of Paul Harris Fellow's to worthy recipients.



## 30<sup>th</sup> June – Commissioner Michael Fuller and Virtual Changeover



**Michael Fuller APM  
NSW Police Commissioner**

Commissioner Fuller joined the NSW Police Force in 1987 and after being promoted to various ranks within the police force was appointed Police Commissioner in 2017.

### Cheque Presentation

There will be a cheque presentation to the Police Legacy Chairman Mr Gary Merryweather.

### Changeover -Club President Induction

President, Barbara Ward will give the members an overview of her year as the President of the club followed by the induction of Fatima Ali as the President for the 2020-2021 Rotary Year.



## Celebrations for the Month MAY



We celebrated and give special thanks to our mothers and grandmothers. We pay tribute to them for their amazing ability to nurture, have patience, strength, devotion and above all unconditional love. We thank our mums for many thankless sacrifices they make or made for us, too many to count but we will always remember. Shower each other with lots of love and hugs even if we may not be able to hold each other.

A World Without Lupus  
Increasing Awareness and Research

 **Lupus Australia** Help Us Solve The Cruel Mystery



On May 10, 2020, **WORLD LUPUS DAY** to raise global awareness & understanding of lupus for the estimated 5 million people worldwide living with this chronic autoimmune disease



This year, we are highlighting the life-altering effects of lupus, the international survey respondents from over 70 countries, including Australia, reinforces the devastating and life-altering effects can cause to physical function for the estimated five million people who live with the disease across the globe. Over 5 million people of all ages, races, ethnicities and genders around the world suffer from lupus, a potentially fatal autoimmune disease that can damage any part of the body. Anyone can develop lupus and there's no cure. World Lupus Federation results from a recently released global survey that found:

- nearly 7 in 10 respondents with lupus reported that the debilitating disease hampers their mobility.
- nearly 9 in 10 respondents shared that pain from lupus interferes with their normal activities both inside and outside of their homes.

Lupus affects approximately 35,000 Australians, and is particularly prevalent in **women particularly in child bearing age** and the Indigenous community.



### Help Lines:

- National Indigenous Critical Response Service: Thirilli  
**1800 805 801** (Open 24/7)
- Lifeline, Crisis Support, Suicide Prevention : **13 11 14**
- Beyond Blue, Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Helpline: **1800 512 348**
- Sexual Assault, Domestic or Family violence & abuse: **1800RESPECT**
- Mental Health Crisis Line: **1800 011 511**
- NSW Parent Line: **1300 1300 52**
- KIDS Helpline: **1800 551 800**
- YOUR ROOM, For Aboriginal people: **1800 250 015**



## HOW YOUR DONATION HELPED OUR WINTER APPEAL

“THANK YOU! IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR HELP” says Barbara.



Partnered with PCYC South Sydney and Weave Youth & Community Services to undertake their Winter Appeal. **How this all started:**

For three years, Cathy Tait and a couple of other Rotarians, Brigitte Sancho, David Hirsch and Mary Waite, took part in the Tribal Warrior boxing program, Clean Slate Without Prejudice. Over 100 community people show up at the George Street National Centre for Indigenous Excellence at 6:00 am 3 times per week. Families, community leaders, Justice, and Police participate in this highly successful program.

In March, Cathy Tait spoke to Youth Community Police Officer Angela Cooke working out of South Sydney PCYC, about some of the hardships that are being witnessed by the children, youth and many families in this mostly indigenous community within and surrounding Redfern. Some of the children would not have a blanket to keep them warm at night. We decided to take action. We garnered donations sponsored by our Past President, Alex Shaw for 200 blankets and 200 sleeping bags. Aurrum Pty, HomeCo, Anaconda and Spotlight provided the items. Our club raised close to \$3,000 to purchase of toiletries for families.



With the help from our Rotarians, Alex Shaw, Dr. Sonu Bhaskar, Lina Schmidt-Souki, Sarah and Bob Schmidt, Barbara Ward, Diane and Tom Richards and Cathy Tait, packed the toiletries into 250 bags in 5 hours, all while physical distancing!

A number of the key community NGO's in the area which included Weave Youth and Community Services, PCYC of South Sydney, Inner Sydney Empowered Communities, Tribal Warrior, Redfern Youth Connect, Nelly's Healing Centre, Mudgin-Gal, The Settlement, Babana Men's Group, Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care Service, La Perouse Youth Haven, Fact Tree Youth Service provided the lists of families who benefited from the Winter Appeal.



Weave Youth and Community Services provided a distribution hub for all of our donations. With the help of PCYC of South Sydney, Weave and the Police Youth Community Officers provided further distribution help to the families.

All items were distributed to the families and young people within 7 days. The need was great and continues to be great. We were fortunate to have had the support of RCS and the community to make this Winter Appeal come alive.

Article - Written by Cathy Tait.

