

# Welcome Back

FROM YOUR INTERIM PRESIDENT

February 1, 2021



PCYC Youth Christmas Party



## TOGETHER WE ARE POWERFUL

The words, "Together we are powerful" rang true on so many levels after reflecting on our challenging yet, inspiring year in 2020. I am Cathy Tait, VP of Rotary Club of Sydney, and the Interim President while our President – Fatima Ali is on leave.

With your support we were able to hold close to 25 Zoom meetings with world-renown speakers, approximately 30 committee meetings, 6 board meetings, created dozens of postings and shares across our communications platforms, supported our local communities (PCYC Christmas party, Soukup scholars), supported our global communities through Rotary Give Every Child a Future, all the while sharing your personal stories during our Zoom meetings. One of the telling outcomes, is that we still maintained our membership levels pre-Covid. "Together we are powerful."

You had faith in what we were doing, and with your support, you celebrated and participated in our club throughout this demanding year. For that we thank you.

The crisis of the pandemic, for some has been extreme, and others an opportunity to make our lives extraordinary in some way. Let's do the extraordinary in 2021, as Rotarians and individuals by reflecting, reframing and maintaining our resilience the way forward.

When it comes down to it the only way to face a crisis, that makes any sense at all is – *together*.

## In this issue...

- Together we are powerful.
- It's a new year and a new start.
- It's our Centenary, so Let's Celebrate!
- Top Picks
- We need your help and an invite to get involved

## IT'S A NEW YEAR, A NEW START



## What's Different?

Over the balance of this Rotary year, we will be conducting where appropriate, a mixture of Hybrid meetings intermingled with pure Zoom meetings. What that means, if you still would like to Zoom in, we welcome your participation, with an ask, that you give a small donation to our Centenary project, Rotary Give Every Child a Future.

We are back at the newly refreshed Castlereagh Hotel who have been gracious in helping us get back into Cellos Dining Room, practicing Covid protocols. What Next?

1. Check on our Website & Social Media sites for our upcoming events & speakers as we are approaching a full schedule balance of year.
2. We encourage you to register ahead of time into our Hybrid meetings, since turning up at the door due to Covid restrictions is discouraged.
3. Bring a friend or colleague, at least once to one of our meetings, we always welcome new potential members. Studies have shown the way to growth is through others.

Be sure to see our **schedule of events**, you will see some new initiatives where exclusive external events have been planned for you – so mark your calendars!

## It's our Centenary, Let's Celebrate!



## What you can look forward to...

Your NSW & National Centenary Committees have been hard at work planning amazing events for our Rotarians, their families and friends. Thank you to Geoff Wilbow and Garry Browne for leading the charge on what can only be described as an "epic few months ahead."

Just a sampling of things to come...

- Launch of Parliamentarian friends of Rotary program.
- Rotary Aussie Peace Walk – Canberra
- Book launch: Humanity in Action, Celebrating 100 years of Rotary in Australia.
- Rotary Centenary Coin & Stamp Launch
- May 1<sup>st</sup> – celebrating the signing of the RCS charter.
- Launch of Rotary/PCYC Youth Encouragement Scholarships program
- Revitalization of the Guriwal Trail
- Our big Centenary Event – May 17<sup>th</sup> & more!

## Your Board at Work!

Yes, we have been busy in the background, meeting to make sure we exceed your expectations as well as conducting strategic planning sessions to ensure the future health and growth of the club. You will be hearing more from us over the coming weeks, and in the meantime....

*We as a Board have had our second Strategic Planning session where we continued looking at ways in which we could build on the last meeting, with more knowledge and understanding. We have identified a number of ways in which to engage our members and will be seeking your opinion and feedback on a number of matters in the coming months. I am encouraged by the Board's commitment to our members as we all reignite and mobilize the club together post-Covid into our Centenary Year. Thanks to our facilitator: Garry Browne*

## Top Picks

**Holger Knaack**, our Rotary International President gave an inspiring talk to our Australian Rotarians on Australia Day. Take a Listen, it is just over 5 minutes long. Thank you to all who participated and contributed to the Day. There is plenty of work to do as we look to inclusiveness in the months and years ahead, by supporting the Uluru Statement. We encourage you to listen and reflect .

[Click here to Watch Rotary International President, Holger Knaack Australia Day Tribute](#)

[Click here to watch Uluru Statement from the Heart.](#)

**O**ur President's and Centenary Project, Rotary Give Every Child a Future is in need of your support. Please give what you can to make 100,000 vaccines in the poorest Pacific Island countries a reality. \$450. Provides vaccines for 10 children. \$45. Will vaccinate one child. Thank you in advance.

[Click to Donate here.](#)



### **We need your Help, an invitation to get involved.**

**Thank you** for taking the time to read what is happening in our club. We cannot do this without you, and we invite you to come to a committee meeting of your choice, or volunteer with some of the planning for our Centenary events. Feel free to contact any of your Board members or Chairs of the committees and ask how you can help. You make a difference by serving, and we welcome your service.

*"Let our new year's resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word." —Goran Persson*

**TAKE ACTION: [www.sydneyrotary.com](http://www.sydneyrotary.com)**