



### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



**President  
Neil Watt**

I am writing this report from 1800 klms away from my home base and I might be on a different planet.

The COVID-19 scourge does not appear to be in existence up here although the news media including TV, Radio and newspapers are consumed with it.

The local Gold Coast residents move around without fear and social distancing and masks are non existent.

Very few shops use the QR system and they tend to be large retail stores such as Nick Scali, Harvey Norman, JB Hifi and The Goodguys. Restaurants and coffee shops definately not so obvious and some hotels in dining room only.

Border crossings are another story and I cannot travel into Tweed Heads for example with Victorian no. plates and Victorian driving license. I do have a Qld registered car but I have not chanced the normal M 1 trip to the airport at this time and I needed to travel the coast road rather than the M1 to get to the airport via Tugen.

I was pleased that a social event at Peter Little's home on the 13 th was able to be held ,albeit with

reduced no.s, and the reports from attending members was overwhelming full of praise for the setting and the menu.

Congratulations to Peter.

It is encouraging that the Austrian Club is reopening in February and our members must decide whether they wish to hold weekly face to face meetings or a mixture of Face to face and Zoom going forward. All members have been requested to nominate their preference to Secretary Barrie by next Wednesday in order that the matter can be discussed at next weeks meeting.

By way of information PP Merle Maunder has broken her leg and will be in rehab in the immediate future. Our best wishes and speedy recovery are extended to Merle at this time.

It is pleasing that we have received another BBQ booking for Bunnings on January 30 and without our market every opportunity for fundraising must be claimed.

I have reported that I wrote to the CEO of Darebin Council regarding the Farmers Market as well as relevant councillors but apart from receiving an acknowledgment of my letter I have had no reply to date.

Let us all pull together to ensure the Rotary Club of Rosanna has a rewarding year in 2021 despite the road blocks that COVID-19 restrictions may impose.

Neil



# Report from meetings 13th January and 20th January, 2021

Thanks Peter the chance to meet in person at your place on the 13<sup>th</sup> was even more enjoyable than any of us might have imagined. The setting, the food, the lorikeets and even the flying foxes that flew silently above us when darkness fell were all magic, but the experience of seeing and talking to each other in the flesh rather than on some flickering Zoom image was really something.

A week later we were back to electronic meetings. When the technical difficulties were overcome (Well almost) we got under way. As usual we began with toasts to Australia, Rotary, and the Rotary Club of Bali – Ubud -Sunset. They have 17 projects running and by all accounts are a very active club.

President Neil from the Gold Coast introduced two guests, Miryam and Carlos Mahir. Born in Columbia, South America they have now lived in Australia for 30 years. We all hope to see and speak with you again Miryam and Carlos.

Apologies were received from Chris Hopkins, Chris Bence (at another District function), Stan Gorr, who came up on screen anyway, and Don Munro. Our guest speaker, Michael Henman, was introduced by Stan.

Michael started his career in 1988 as an embryologist and now works for a firm that provides instruments and equipment for current embryologists working in “In Vitro Fertilization” (I.V.F.). The first surprise of his presentation was that the first successful I.V.F. baby in Australia was born in 1978 and is now a mother herself. From this beginning we have now reached the point where the procedures are so successful that 15,000 I.V.F. births took place in Australia and New Zealand in 2019.

I can't pretend to explain the technicalities of I.V.F. procedures, but the reasons for their need is that for various reasons some women and men are infertile. Women's fertility is at its peak in the late 30s then it declines quite quickly beyond that. Given that at present many women defer their reproductive lives until much later than in earlier years their window of fertility is much narrower than that of their mothers. This means that now the chances becoming pregnant and carrying an infant full term are quite reduced. In normal circumstances an egg is released from the ovaries about once a month. It moves along the fallopian tube until it is fertilized by male sperm and is attached to the wall of the uterus and by a process of

cell multiplication becomes an embryo and ultimately an infant waiting to be born. As Michael explained the process it seemed to be a journey of chance and probability with many threats along the way.

Male fertility can also be compromised. D.N.A. damage can be an issue as can excessive consumption of coffee, alcohol and smoking. Sperm quality also decreases with age. Even wearing budgie smugglers can have an effect.

Does that take all the fun out of the business? Well not really it seems. Attention to diet and reduction of obesity can make a difference as can cut backs in coffee, alcohol and smoking. A younger partner makes a difference (Member's wives can relax it's all to do with see the age related decline in female fertility). And finally abstinence has a negative effect (well we all knew that didn't we).

The progress in the field has been quite astonishing as techniques and insights into fertility have been improved by research and experience. Like many others at the meeting I was so impressed by the diligence and inventiveness of those working in the field. How ignorant we are about the imagination and work that has gone into so many aspects of our physical well-being.

John.



## The Four Way Test

of the things we think, say and do

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

## Book Group:

### This Month's Read is "The Sandpit"

Author: Nicholas  
Shakespeare

#### What Banjo may write today

I had written him a text  
Which I'd sent, hoping the next  
Time he came in mobile coverage  
He'd have time to say hello.  
But I'd heard he'd lost his iPhone,  
So I emailed him from my smart phone,  
Just addressed, on spec, as follows:  
clancy@theoverflow

And the answer redirected  
Wasn't quite what I'd expected  
And it wasn't from the shearing mate  
Who'd answered once before.  
His ISP provider wrote it  
And verbatim I will quote it:  
'This account has been suspended:  
You won't hear from him any more.'

In my wild erratic fancy  
Visions come to me of Clancy:  
Out of reach of mobile coverage  
Where the Western rivers flow.  
Instead of tapping on the small screen,  
He'd be camping by the tall green  
River gums, a pleasure  
That the town folk never know.

Well, the bush has friends to meet him  
But the rest of us can't greet him:  
Out there, even Telstra's network  
Doesn't give you any bars.  
He can't blog the vision splendid  
Of the sunlit plains extended

Or tweet the wondrous glory  
Of the everlasting stars.

I am sitting at the keyboard,  
I'm too stressed out to be bored  
As I answer all the emails  
By the deadlines they contain.  
While my screen fills with promotions  
For 'Viagra' and strange potions  
And announcements of the million-dollar  
Prizes I can claim.

But the looming deadlines haunt me  
And their harassing senders taunt me  
That they need response this evening  
For tomorrow is too late!  
But their texts, too quickly ended,  
Often can't be comprehended  
For their writers have no time to think  
They have no time to wait.

And I sometimes rather fancy  
That I'd like to trade with Clancy:  
Just set up an email bouncer  
Saying 'Sorry, had to go.'  
While he faced an inbox jamming  
Up with deadlines and with spamming  
As he signed off every message:  
clancy@theoverflow.

#### HAVE A GIGGLE !

**A** teacher was giving a lesson on the  
circulation of the blood Trying to make the  
matter clearer, she said, 'Now, class, if I stood on  
my head, the blood, as you know, would run into  
it, and I would turn red in the face.'  
'Yes,' the class said.  
'Then why is it that while I am standing upright  
in the ordinary positions the blood doesn't run  
into my feet?'

**A little fellow** shouted, Cause your feet ain't empty.'

## Rotary Club of Rosanna Inc.

## Contact

## Meetings

**President:** Neil Watt P.O. Box 103 Rosanna 3084

**Secretary:** Barrie Williams Phone 0431 510 110

**Treasurer:** Ian Bushby Website:  
[www.rosannarotary.org](http://www.rosannarotary.org)

Facebook: [WWW.facebook/  
rotaryclubofrosanna](https://www.facebook.com/rotaryclubofrosanna)

**ZOOM MEETINGS  
UNTIL POST COVID**

**Wednesdays at 7.30PM**

**The Austrian Club**  
78-90 Sheehan Road  
West Heidelberg 3081  
**Phone:** 9459 8686

**Apologies & Guests notify Treasurer Ian Bushby 0431510110 by 1.00 pm on meeting day,**

**Next Meeting: Virtual at your place**

**Wednesday January 27th 7.30pm**

**Start**

**ZOOM MEETING:**

**Club Assembly**

**You will receive an email invitation from  
Treasurer Ian to join the meeting  
Follow instructions there in.**

**Next Meeting: Virtual at your place**

**Wednesday February 3rd 7.30pm**

**Start**

**ZOOM MEETING:**

**Topic:**

**TO BE ADVISED**

**You will receive an email invitation from  
Treasurer Ian to join the meeting  
Follow instructions there in.**



**R.I. PRESIDENT  
2020-2021**

**Holger Knaak**  
FROM THE ROTARY CLUB OF  
Herzogtum, Lauenburg-Molins  
Germany



**DISTRICT  
GOVERNOR 9790  
2020-2021**

**Bruce Anderson**  
FROM THE ROTARY CLUB OF  
Strathmore

**DECEMBER IS**

**DISEASE PREVENTION  
AND TREATMENT  
MONTH**

"The prevention of disease today is one of the most important factors in line of human endeavor."  
Charles Mayo

Rotary   [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)