

Congratulations Immediate Past President Mark. Mark has done a great job under very trying circumstances ,and has been tireless and committed worker for the Rotary cause. A big Thank You to you, and your board. Also for your support leading up to our handover.

Reflecting on my Rotary years since joining the Crows Nest Club in 2013,initially I wasn't quite sure what it was all about,but after 6 months when I was handed the Guest Speaker Co-ordinator's role,I slowly but surely got into the swing of it. I strongly believe in Rotary , that involvement is the key.

Two year's later,having mastered the spelling of the word "Rotary" I was asked by Angelo if I wanted to be President.Taking a few months to decide,but with Howard as my good mentor,I decided to give it a crack.

A month into the job, our venue next to the CN Hotel was rendered inoperable by a swinging crane associated with the Woolworths rebuild next door,so we had to find another venue.but one thing CN has in spades(or at least at the time) available venues for Monday lunches,so we moved down to the Small Bar Restaurant,which supposed to be for a month or two but turned out to be a year or two.

We had a good year for Membership,an additional 4,but sadly only one,Ross, has done the distance.

The good ol' Bunnings BBQ plus the Melbourne Cup Trifecta, was a great success ,as it has continued to be until this year.

Next month,after a four and a half month delay, the BBQ is back on,but the rules have changed,which we will need to fully understand.

Since my year as President,I have been a Club Director each year,mostly on International,but I just can't seem to get away from the Guest Speakers Co-ordination role,plus a shared editing role for the Clubrunner Newsletter.

But that's enough of the past,we need to focus on the future.

Let's make no mistake,as the new RI President has commented,

The COVID crisis has forced us to adapt,and as Michael McQueen has reminded us often,adaption,and,how well we adapt, is the key to our survival.

In watching the Rotary Centenary for Australia and New Zealand Presentation last Friday,by the way did anyone else watch it,what stuck with me was the words of the GG Hurley,when using a quote from Prince Philip in saying

Can't let the current challenges define our long term goals

However in demonstrating the way we handle the current issues ,created by the COVID crisis,puts us in a better position to tackle more longer term issues such as CLUB MEMBERSHIP.

But to ensure we cover all bases so to speak we need to establish a workable strategic plan for the next 3-5 years ,a document involving the input and commitment of all members to ensure our long term success and future.

So for this year,the people who will be managing our future along with myself will be the Club Directors.

Introduce Club Directors.

However we cannot ignore the tireless work of Phil Smith,our ZOOM Champion and co-editor of Clubrunner.Not to mention Club photographer,BBQ town crier and part time Father Christmas.

Bruce , Cyril and Howard for their work on the BBQ.Howard is also involved with Shelterbox

Angelo for co-ordinating the Melbourne Cup Trifecta,plus outside direct involvement with our Club is Harold,the new Chair for ROMAC.

Finally I wish to acknowledge the love and support of my family,sister Margot,cousin Wendy who are with us tonight plus my dear partner ,in crime, Dorothy Cottee

So,in rapping up,what can I say but a big Thanks to, family, friends, Fellow Crows Nest Rotarians and their wonderful Partners for coming here tonight and making my Changeover Night special.

Before I hand back to Tom, a Thank You to his wife Joy who provided the beautiful table decorations, but please put your hands together for Tom, another great job as MC.

Ian