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Last Monday 25 of our 45 Members engaged in the Club's inaugural virtual ZOOM Meeting—with Mary phoning in. For our first such meeting, that was an excellent uptake and I congratulate you all for joining in!

Our next ZOOM Meeting is set down for 7.00PM next Monday (Easter Monday) by which time I hope to have encouraged more of our Members on to ZOOM. This will be a key Rotary meeting platform for the foreseeable future, so getting and staying connected is important!

A meeting invite for next Monday will be sent out in coming days. The plan is for the Club to meet fortnightly via ZOOM during this period of self isolation and social distancing. Please contact me directly if you need assistance with connecting to ZOOM or our Club's WhatsApp.

Can I also encourage each one of us to watch and circulate this excellent short five minute video. Thank you to Carol Allen for sharing this with us.

<https://youtu.be/j-potM9xeDc>

Please continue to take good care of yourselves and keep in touch!

Many thanks to all, President, Peter Rawlings

## A letter from Gemma Sisia, Founder of School of St Jude, Tanzania

Dear All at Mount Martha Rotary,

Greetings from my living room! I am over half-way through my self-isolation after having arrived safely back in Tanzania on Wednesday 18 March. I am feeling well, though keeping the family at a distance and home-schooling is proving a challenge.

Our students remain at home as per the government decree last week. The closure is for 30 days, however we understand that this is a changing environment so we need to be prepared for that to be extended. If The School of St Jude has taught me anything, it is that humans are resilient and together we will get through this.

Our monthly newsletter is going to be put on hold for the time being and instead, we will aim to give you updates, like this, when we can.

Already we are seeing so many great initiatives from our staff to help keep the school running (see below for pictures):

- Our wonderful staff, who are still working, continue to practice safe social-distancing and good hygiene.
- Our lab technicians are busy making bleach, liquid soap and sanitizer to keep the school clean.
- Our academic staff are creating innovative learning techniques, such as at home study packs, to ensure students can continue to learn while at home.
- Our parent leaders are helping to deliver and distribute the work teachers are preparing, ensuring it reaches our students.
- Business staff are having 'testing days' working from home, which can sometimes be a bit of a challenge here in Tanzania, with frequent power cuts and limited access to internet. But these
- 'testing days' are to make sure that in the event of a country lockdown our staff will still be able to answer any questions you may have and continue to keep you all informed.
- Our procurement team are ensuring we have adequate stock so we are ready as soon as the school reopens.
- Our maintenance, gardeners and support staff are working hard to ensure that our buildings and grounds don't fall into disrepair.
- Our cleaning staff are ensuring that our work spaces and sitting areas are thoroughly cleaned each day.
- Our Community Relations team are ensuring families who are most in need are supported through this time by sending out home packs, filled with essentials like rice, sugar, soap and beans.
- And our wonderful bus drivers have increased the daily rounds to ensure we can continue to provide transport while also practicing safe distancing.

Be sure to keep an eye on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for more great initiatives happening at the school!

I also wanted to let you know that the Tanzanian Government issued an update on Monday 23 March for anyone travelling to Tanzania. It stated that all travellers arriving will be subjected to mandatory isolation for 14 days in designated facilities identified by the Government, at the cost of the traveller. If you had a trip planned, we encourage you to postpone rather than cancel completely, as we hope you will be able to visit the school once this pandemic is over.

Seeing as we are all home and probably looking for something to do, I thought I should share with you a recent article about the International Health Check Team's timely visit to the school last month. They ensured all 1,800 of our students are fit and healthy. We were incredibly lucky to have Dr Craig, an infectious diseases specialist, visit us for the seventh time. He was very helpful in advising us on best measures and preparations to keep our staff and students safe during this challenging time.

And finally, should you be looking for a bit of easy listening while self-isolating or laying low at home, be sure to check out our latest podcast episode below.

Until next time, stay safe and stay well.

Gemma

## **District 9820 Emergency Chair Report**

***Submitted by PDG Janne Speirs - Rotary Club of Traralgon***

As D9820 Emergency Management Chair, I would like to make a few comments on the wonderful and practical work being done by the East Gippsland Rotary Fire Aid Committee on behalf of all Rotarians in the District; .... and on your behalf, we are currently working on the initial stages of a number of significant Global Grants which, if brought to fruition will be of huge future benefit in the region. Here's hoping – first reactions have been positive.

Geographically, the recovery task is huge and of course the issues we and indeed the whole world face now with COVID-19 is intensifying the challenges being faced.

Where possible, people are continuing to receive assistance in many forms, regardless of the pandemic, and your Committee has been working tirelessly to make life easier for those who have suffered so much. We have also been able to assist some individuals through our District Trust and this has been much appreciated.

On the Labour Day weekend, DG Adrian and I spent time in Mallacoota, talking with a number of Community leaders regarding ways in which we as D9820 may be able to assist with the rebuilding of their Community. We were given a very thorough tour of the town, which was extremely sobering, but also showed how incredibly lucky the town was not to have suffered far more than it did!

One thing I became very conscious of was the fatigue being suffered by people in hospitality within the town – they went through the trauma, but then almost immediately had to cater for those who were dropped in – Emergency Services, Military etc. Then, with those returning to rescue caravans etc and eventually new holiday makers returning to the area.

The upshot is they have had no time to actually process their own emotions and reactions and therefore some are feeling quite 'overcome', even those who had no physical losses.

For me though, the highlight was visiting a gentleman in Genoa, who was so grateful to receive shopping vouchers and some of the work wear. He had a typically Australian laid back approach to the whole thing, but has been impacted quite severely. In fact to top it all off, when he took his wife up to Southern NSW to get away from it all, her car was washed away in the floods!!!!

As I conclude I would just like to thank PDG Jane Cox for donating a number of Resilience Diaries from Australian Rotary Health – they have been very well received.



## THE ROTARY FOUNDATION HISTORY

**The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is Rotary's charity and Rotarians Charity of choice**

**The Rotary Foundation** is a not-for-profit corporation, supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and friends of the Foundation who share its vision of a better world. It is registered in the USA as an International Charitable Trust.

**The mission** of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty. **Its motto** is simply *"Doing Good in the World"*.

**An endowment fund** The Rotary Foundation, was established in 1917 by R I President Arch Klumph. After 1947 when Rotarians made a significant contributions in memory of Paul Harris who died in January 1947 the Foundation launched its first programme, *Graduate Fellowships* (now Ambassadorial Scholarships) sending 18 students abroad to 7 countries. Today, more than 1200 Rotary Scholars study abroad every year.

Rotary clubs and Rotarians raise and contribute funds to The Rotary Foundation annually enabling humanitarian work to be done around the globe. Clubs are regularly apply for use of these funds for local and international projects providing access to funding not otherwise achievable given their size.

Today the fund is almost US\$1 billion. Its unique funding model provides for a perpetual capital resource which annually funds thousands of club projects all over the world through Rotary District and Global grants.

The Foundation has identified six causes or **"Areas of Focus"** as being priorities for funding.



The Rotary Foundation has been recognised as the world's Outstanding Foundation of 2016 by the International Association of Fundraising Professionals. This award honours organisations that show philanthropic commitment and leadership through financial support, innovation, encouragement of others, and involvement in public affairs.

**You too can support The Rotary Foundation "Doing Good in the World" by**

- Renewing your Centurion Club membership. \$100 per year as you are able.
- For new members forms are available from Roger Annear

Direct bank contribution to the RC Mt Martha Club A/c BSB 633-000, Account 126265388

Please note your name and also advise Roger by email when done.



Another tidbit about Coronavirus (COVID-19) for your information.



**A bit of light-hearted humour in these difficult times.**



## **How to catch an Australian:**



**OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS, TO WHOM WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL**

