



# Ashmore in Action

Issue N<sup>o</sup>.17: 16<sup>th</sup> August 2020

The Meeting Venue for Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> August is: ARCC

Club President



Norman Coventry

R.I. President



Holger Knaack

District Governor



Andy Rajapakse

Assistant Governor



David Bisiker



Rotary Opens Opportunities

## ZOOM Meeting Report for Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020

For various reasons, not the least difficulty with the internet system in these parts, the start of the meeting was delayed until 18:35.

*Brian McAllen*, as coordinator advised that our guest speaker this evening is *Julie Hoskison*, speaking to us on the difficulties of operating a children's charity in Fiji. Julie will be joining the meeting at approximately 7:00 o' clock.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from, Marcia Waller, Joan Adams, Ian Wilson and David Grant.

Members with information were:-

*Norman Coventry*: D.G Andy Rajapakse will attend a meeting of Ashmore Rotary on Wednesday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of September. It was pointed out that Nerang Rotary has a standing arrangement to use ARRC for meetings on the this

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date. an approach will be made to the President of Nerang with a view to holding a joint meeting on that evening.

A revised District Assembly training seminar will be held at the Ashmore Rotary Community Centre on Sunday, the 11th of October. This meeting would normally be held prior to the commencement of the Rotary year but was postponed due the restrictions related to Covid-19. The meeting will be an abridged version lasting one day as opposed to the usual two days. Seven clubs will be involved. Further arrangements will be made, with particular reference to catering as the day approaches.

*Denise Payne*: A video has been produced for our recruitment campaign. It was filmed by Carey Cam at a recent meeting at the Ashmore Seafood and Steak Restaurant. Commentary by club members was added later. The video can be viewed on the Rotary Ashmore website. We are now seeking still photographs for a video of the projects undertaken by Ashmore Rotary during the past year.

*Robyn Schatz*: Has taken over the sponsorship duties to the St. Johns Critical Care Centre at Surfers Paradise. The onset of Covid-19 has significantly increase the workload of volunteer staff at the centre. It has been established that there is an ongoing need for staple items such as Rice, Pasta, Pasta Sauce and Fish in small cans. With funds raised by the weekly egg raffles, a delivery of those items was made last week. The situation is being monitored and further supplies will be delivered as the raffle revenue is received.

*Brian McAllen*: The "A" Team of *Pat Fleming*, *Barbara Healey* and *Brian McAllen* are required to provide two meals each month. Opinion is sought as to what meals are sourced, given the limited resources at the community Centre. Whilst general satisfaction of meals provided to date, comment on possible (feasible) alternatives is welcome.

Guest Speaker *Julie Hoskison* joined the meeting. *Peter Debelak* introduced Julie, who is a client. She usually spends equal time between Fiji and the Gold Coast, a routine disrupted by Covid -19. Her project in Fiji is a small NGO, founded in 2010 to provide funding for the local population of about 200 square kilometres, between Suva and Nadi on the largest of the islands, Viti Levu. It is known as the Sigatoka (Coral) coast. Julie gave a PowerPoint presentation of the work of *Fiji Kids* showing the living conditions of some of the families and how her organisation has helped those communities.

They have also undertaken specific projects to assist critically ill children to travel to India, Australia or America for life-saving surgery. Pictures of children who's lived have been saved by the funding raised were shown.

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## Club Officials for the Year 2020-21

**President:** ..... *Norman Coventry*  
**Vice president:** .....*Heather Yarker*  
**President Elect:** ..... *Denise Payne*  
**Treasurer:** ..... *Ian Wilson*  
**Secretary:** ..... *Joan Adams*

## Service Directors

**Club Service:** ..... *Denise Payne*  
**Community Service:** ..... *Barbary Healey*  
**Youth:** ..... *Jan Heap*  
**Foundation & International Service:** ...*Justine Dillon*  
**Membership:** ..... *Norman Coventry*  
**Vocational Service:** ..... *Robin Schatz*

## Support

**Attendance:** ..... *Robyn Schatz*  
**Welfare:** ..... *Marcia Waller*  
**A.I.A.:** ..... *Michael Hyland*

Although social distancing regulations in Queensland have been relaxed, there still remains some restrictions when meeting.

Please refer to the section overleaf for the latest regulations that may affect us.

## Future Meetings

Day/Date	Venue	Duty Team	Speaker
19 Aug.	ARCC	GREEN	Ken Cowan
"End of a Tour" - WWII Bomber Command			
26 Aug.	AS&S	GOLD	Rod Preston
Mysteries of the Mail: Secrets & Spies etc.			
01 Sept.	ARRC	RED	FATHERS' DAY
09 Sept.	Zoom	GREEN	T.B.A.
16 Sept.	ARRC	GOLD	

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However the greater attention of the organisation is to improve the education facilities of the children. This is an extract from the organisation's manifesto.

*"At Fiji Kids, we believe that all Fiji's young people deserve the opportunity to realise their potential and live their very best lives. Our aim is to break the poverty cycle in Fiji through education.*

*Public education in Fiji is fee-free but parents face considerable costs if they want their children to participate in school life. Uniforms are mandatory, and kids need shoes, books, stationery and school bags. Sporty students sit on the sidelines if they cannot afford sports uniforms and gear. Costs mount up to hundreds of dollars a year – money that many families simply do not have.*

*Fiji Kids is a volunteer based, grass roots charity. We have operated in the Sigatoka (Coral Coast) district in Fiji for over 10 years. Funded by our generous sponsors we have supported almost 150 students to attend school. Through our Tertiary Scholarship program 10 have gone on to attain qualifications from trade certificates to degrees and now have paid employment in meaningful jobs. 10 more of our graduates are currently funded to attend university or vocational college. We have helped these young people become nurses, teachers, chefs, carpenters and accountants. We could not be prouder of their achievements!"*

Covid-19 has had a massive impact in *Fiji Kids*. An important factor is that Julie is unable to enter the country. Because the predominant revenue is through tourism, virtually all income donated by local businesses has ceased. Hotels, shops, tourist facilities have all laid off staff. An annual fundraising event has been unable to proceed with a result that there has been a further loss of some \$20,000. Government assistance is not widely available and many families have no income. Some are near to starving.

Since the start of Covid-19, *Fiji Kids* have managed to raise \$20,000 which has been used to provide needy families with Food Packs. An arrangement is in place with a local Supermarket to supply the Food Packs. The packs contain essentials such as 10kg of flour, 10 kg of rice, 2 litres of oil and 6 litres of milk. The purchase price is \$F125 (approx. AUD 80-85). Depending on the size of the family, this could last from three weeks to two months.

During question time, it became apparent that there are many ways that Rotary can help this organisation. The first step will be to communicate with local Fiji Rotary clubs. It is also possible that other Gold Coast Clubs may wish to contribute to a joint project with Ashmore.

A fund-raising raffle is under way with a first prize of a 7-night holiday in Fiji (when the world is back to as near-normal as it is ever going to get).

*Peter Debelak* thanked Julie for her presentation, assuring her that we will endeavour to assist her to achieve the organisation's objectives. Raffle ticket sales, Food Pack funds and contact information will be a priority.

The meeting closed at 19:50.

### Advice for Catering

For meetings at the *Ashmore Road Community Centre* (ARCC), please make sure that you advise Robyn Schatz **OF YOUR INTENTION TO ATTEND** as we require numbers for catering.

Contact Robyn on Mob.: 0439 794 092 or Email: randgschatz@gmail.com

For meetings that are held at the *Ashmore Road Seafood & Steak Restaurant (ARS&S)*, please advise Robyn if you **WILL NOT BE ATTENDING** as we may be charged if all meals ordered are not taken.

### Covid-19 Restrictions - Queensland As of 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020

- A Border Pass is required for residents returning to Queensland who have not been in a Hotspot.
- Residents who have travelled FROM a hotspot cannot travel into the State by road.
- No more than 1 person per 2 square metres
- Maintain a list of attendees for 56 days after the event.
- Observe Physical Distancing (min. 1.5 metres).

### Member's Welfare

If you are aware of any member who is sick or is in need of help, please contact Marcia Waller on:

Mobile: 0413 730 820

Email: marcialampshade@gmail.com

### Celebrations

*A belated Happy Birthday greeting to Past President, Brad Francis back on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August*

To

*Jan Clogan and Gary Bartsch: both with a birthday on the 11<sup>th</sup> Hope you had a great day*

### Anniversaries

Club

Wedding

11<sup>th</sup> Brad Francis (1999) 14<sup>th</sup> Greg & Jan Clogan

### REMINDER

#### PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP AWARDS

**The awards night is set down for the 28<sup>th</sup> of October. If you have someone who you would like to nominate, Would you please contact Barbara Healey for the form as early as possible.**

#### Editor's Note

It is apparent that that there has been some "disquiet" related to articles posted in this publication.

For this, I sincerely apologise. My motive was simply to introduce some light-hearted entertainment into the document.

Future issues will be confined to Rotary business.

Michael Hyland