

Welcoming Address by Incoming 2010 - 2011 President Ken McQualter

Fellow Rotarians and guests.

Thank you Bill for your very kind words of introduction.

I also want to thank you for your assistance and advice as I prepared for this occasion and the Presidency.

Bill, on behalf of the Club I extend the sincere thanks and appreciation for your leadership of the club over the past 12 months. Bill your efforts have left the club in good heart for the continuing challenges of this new Rotary year. We have enjoyed your style of leadership, your wit and your ability to get things done and we can now acknowledge a good past year in Rotary for our club under your leadership.

We also pay a special tribute to Julie who has supported Bill and the club over the past year. Julie your assistance and support of Bill is appreciated.

Bill, I would now like to present to you the Past Presidents badge

Please join me in thanking Bill and Julie,

I would like to acknowledge the attendance tonight of our Honorary Member Robert Clark MP and our Rotarian guests in, Assistant Governor Philip Rowell, Assistant Governor Elect Marc Fookes & Bev; from North Balwyn we have Past President Tony Wells and President Findley Cornell, from Canterbury we have Past President Brian Bloomer & Debbie, and President Kyle Wightman & Terry; from Camberwell we have President Elect Rob Davies & Glenda, and from Boroondara we have Past President Chris James

Alison and I have enjoyed our Cluster club's changeover dinners over the past week and I look forward to working with Marc, Findley, Rob, Kyle and Greg Vero from Boroondara over the next 12 months

I want to also acknowledge the attendance tonight of our Indigenous Tertiary Scholar Talhemah, we are extremely proud of our Indigenous Tertiary Scholars and we wish them all the best for the rest of the year; also welcome to our Ambassadorial Scholar Mei from Japan.

To Fiona our daughter; thank you for traveling from Sydney and supporting your mum and dad tonight.

I also wish to acknowledge and express great appreciation for the contribution our partners make to this Club. We as Rotarians could not undertake the great service work we do without their love, support and participation in Club activity

In November 2008 when Past President Andrew Mitchell invited me for a coffee, June 2010 seemed a long way off. I now know that the words of wisdom offered by previous Club Presidents on how quickly my term as President would come around could not have been more correct - so heed those words President Elect Peter.

With Alison's support, the honour and the privilege entrusted in me of leading the Rotary Club of Balwyn as the Club's 39th President is an opportunity I could not miss.

I thank the past presidents and all members for their support and encouragement.

I would like to talk about our focus for 2010-2011. This year the New Horizons committee comprising Norman Taralrud-Bay, Gavin Wayland and myself together with President Nominee Peter Frueh set out on a path to develop a Three Year Strategic Plan. The Member Survey was central to determining our priorities and goals for the years ahead. The Strategic Plan will be outlined to members at the Club Forum to be held 13 July.

The Survey identified the areas which drive our focus for the year ahead; these are:

FELLOWSHIP

PROJECTS - SERVICE ABOVE SELF

COMMUNICATION &

MEMBERSHIP

In fellowship we have created 4 teams within the club; the purpose of which is to generate social contact and fellowship between Rotarians and their partners in a relaxed atmosphere -- in other words have a bit of fun.

The teams have been named after Rotarians who have made major contributions to this club; these are STEVENS, MARTIN, CLARK & RIGBY

It is a shame that Frances Rigby can not be with us tonight; I am assured by Brian Pollock as Rigby team captain, that Frances will be the first one invited to team events.

Our Service above Self objectives are to identify projects for the future. Our Community Services Project Appraisals team is looking at a number of projects; our existing Community Service projects including The Boroondara Community Grants and the Box Hill Miniature Railway go from strength to strength.

International is addressing Future Vision; opportunities in our region principally East Timor and the forming of a sister club relationship with a Club in District 5840 - San Antonio Texas;

Vocational Services will continue to build on the success of the Indigenous Tertiary Scholarships and the Boroondara Literary Awards. Next week we launch The Balwyn Business Valued Employee Award in conjunction with The Balwyn Traders Association; this is all about membership;

New Generations is looking at how young people can realise their dreams through the Rotary Programs and our Youth development projects; our plan is to sponsor an INTERACT club in a girls school in Balwyn/Kew area.

The Sunday Market is the engine room that generates the revenue to allow us to undertake so many great projects. It is when you spend time with our Rotarian colleagues in other clubs and listen to their fundraising challenges that you truly appreciate what an incredible asset we have in the Sunday Market. Congratulations to Ian, John & Hugh on a difficult job well done this year.

Our Communication objective is to ensure that our projects, activities and our speakers are made known to our members, and the public. We want to ensure our vision of being widely recognized for our commitment to Service above Self, delivering outstanding projects in the community is recognised and encourages new members and supporters.

Our Membership objective is to use the Teams and the Balwyn Business Vocational Award to generate new members. We need to attract members who are active in their vocation.

As one of our newer members noted in the member survey; “WE ARE BECOMING MALE RETIREE CENTRIC”

The Strategic Plan to be released at the Club Forum will contain a section titled **“HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?”**

We joined Rotary for a number of individual reasons; one of which no doubt was fellowship which was also one of the key reasons Paul Harris and others started Rotary in Chicago.

Another reason for joining Rotary was probably that we wanted to make a difference by putting something back into the community.

“Making a Difference” is what we are all about, making a difference in our personal lives and the lives of others.

Therefore members should consider how they are making a difference; not only in their active involvement in the Club, but also how they can help the Club be more influential and successful in making a significant contribution to the welfare of the disadvantaged, the homeless, the elderly and the young.

Our future direction must be to make the Rotary Club of Balwyn into a kind of club that will attract the next generation of Rotarians

The theme of Rotary International President Elect Ray Klingensmith is **BUILDING COMMUNITIES: BRIDGING CONTINENTS.**

This summarises what we do best; it reflects who we are and what we do; linking people of goodwill to make the world a better place to live and work.

President Elect Ray Klingensmith's key message this year is that Rotarians need to embrace change.

It is my pleasure now to introduce the club officers for the Rotary year ahead and ask them to please join me up here when their name is called.

President-Elect	Peter Frueh
Vice-President	Norman Taralrud-Bay
Past President	Bill Goodwin
Secretary	Jim Cary
Treasurer	Grantham Beeston
Director – Community Service	Trevor White
Director – Club Service	Anthea Rutter
Director – New Generations	Geoff Edwards
Director – Vocational Service	Lewis Stephens
Director – International Service	Mark Caldwell
Director – Membership	David Jones
Assistant Secretary. Assistant Treasurer.	Henry Brockman Ian Ridd

Whilst not members of the Board, allow me to introduce key organisers and fundraisers for our club in 2010/11-- the Sergeant at Arms -- Eric Davey & Michael Hennessy.

Could I ask all of the Rotarians and guests present to acknowledge the team that will lead us through 2010/2011.

On behalf of Bill & Julie and Alison & I, we thank David Jones, Les Horner, Peter Thomas and Mike Nolan for organising changeover and for Mike's wonderful MC work. To all our guests we thank you for coming.

In concluding it is a great honour for me to lead this Club in 2010/2011; with the very motivated team we have assembled on the board to lead the committee, I believe we will have a very positive year; I ask Rotarians to continue to learn from our experiences and to build on our success.

Thank you.