



# FOREST HILL HAPPENINGS

No 35

President: Stuart Williams

15 April 2020

## STU'S SCRIPT

I hope that your Easter celebrations were fine, if not satisfactory. It is certainly a different time. Many of our members are touching base via social media and emails. Let's keep it up. Being involved in a funeral in this time of restrictions was a bit weird. Thank you all who sent messages of condolences. Barbara Williams sent me a lovely card on behalf of the Rotary club. I appreciated it.

Some of you might have heard DG Shia was not able to get to Echuca because her nephew was very badly hurt in a car accident. I have checked with Shia and he is now in rehab and making slow progress, but improving daily. I appreciated a phone call from Shia. I believe she has rung each president to just check on how each club is travelling.

The restrictions have some interesting outcomes. John Mc Phee loves his garden plot. Being a few months over 70 he is not allowed to go into his plot... supposed to stay at home. Bill might be in the same situation.

I have been in contact with Ray Smith and John Bindon and they are both going fine.

All youth programs are suspended until March 2021 and Youth Exchange until July 2021.

WFM has been suspended for 2 months.

The Foundation Grants seminar that was scheduled for 15 May, 2020 has been cancelled and may be rescheduled for later in the year. On-line learning might be required to meet RI requirements.

I hope you have had time to do the things you did not have time before COVID-19. I have written 38 pages of my story- Bk 2 and dug up my Gladiolus.

Our next Zoom meeting will be Monday 19 April, 7pm-7.40. Hope you can join us. Contact Bill, he will send out an email.

Stay healthy, stay sane, stay safe.

Stuart

## JOHN BINDON'S GETAWAY TO ENGLAND AND IRELAND

My first adventure was to Abu Dhabi where I had a two-day stopover and was impressed by the amount of development taking place in that city. For a desert location, there was an abundance of green grass and beautiful garden beds everywhere.

I then travelled to Manchester and spent five days exploring the city and other locations such as Leeds, Liverpool and Blackpool. It is interesting to see how Manchester has transformed itself from an industrial city to a good mixture of restaurants, shops, museums and galleries.

My daytrip to Leeds was a little bit of a disaster as I encountered heavy snow and icy roads which increased my travel time.

At my hotel in Manchester I noticed on the functions board that the Rotary Club of Wolseley was meeting that evening. I attended the meeting and was given a very warm welcome and was asked a number of questions on the bushfires in Australia and how Rotary Clubs were functioning.

I then flew to Dublin and spent three days exploring the city prior to my tour of Ireland. I visited Trinity College and the Guinness Brewery, where I consumed my first pint of Guinness.

On the Monday morning, I joined up with my fellow travellers.

Our first stop was Galway, where we had the opportunity to spend some free time, exploring that city.

We then travelled on to Bunratty Castle and its Folk Park, a living history Museum that revealed insights into life in Ireland during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

We then travelled on to Limerick which was our stop for the night. That evening we travelled back to Bunratty Castle for a wonderful night of entertainment and dinner. Dinner was served in the traditional way, with only a knife to cut up the ribs and your fingers did the rest!

The following day we travelled on to the spectacular Cliffs of Moher and a visit to the "Atlantic Edge" exhibition to learn about their history. After the scenic drive through local villages we went for a short ferry journey across the Shannon estuary. Our home for the next two nights was the colourful town of Killarney.

The following day we circled this spectacular Ring of Kerry with its lovely green hills, century-old stone villages and vivid blue seascape providing a wonderful background.

The next day we travelled across the rugged Kerry Mountains and on to Blarney Castle, to kiss the famous stone. The afternoon stop was in the historic seaport town of Youghal and a local person was our guide around the town.

After our overnight stop, we moved on to the House of Waterford Crystal. Here we watched the talented master craftsmen in their workshop creating exquisite pieces. Our next stop was the town of New Ross, where we saw the monument to John F Kennedy who travelled to his ancestral family hometown in 1963.

We visited the three masted famine ship and gained an insight into the tragic plight the Irish emigrants who fled the potato famine during the 1800s went through.

On our way back to Dublin, we stopped en route at Glenealy Farmhouse for a delightful lunch. The lady of the house is a presenter on Irish TV of a cooking show and runs a cooking school at her home.

By the end of the tour I was very impressed with our Tour Leader; for her vast knowledge of the different locations and her local contacts.

After the tour, I spent another three days in Dublin and hired a car to travel to nearby villages. I also spent a day in Belfast and visited the Titanic Museum. On my trip back to Dublin, I encountered very heavy rain and flooding of roads resulting in several detours.

During my flight home from Dublin I was under very good medical care, as I had two doctors sitting next to me!

I arrived home two days before the compulsory 14-day lockdown, but I did the right thing by self-isolating for the next two weeks.

John Bindon

## **NEXT MEETING**

***Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm in the Zoom Room. (Look out for an email around 6.50pm Please dress appropriately as we may be joined by several dignitaries.)***

## **AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE**

Mizuki was an Exchange Student from Japan who keeps in contact with Ron Brooks. Mizuki's parents live in Tokyo but she is living with husband Yuji in Imabari on Shikoku Island which is in the south of Japan near Hiroshima. It is linked to another island by a 4km suspension bridge, the longest in the world. Kiina is their 9 year old daughter. Mizuki's mother is a great scuba diver like Mizuki was. They have dived in many places around the world including the Great Barrier Reef.

In Japan, Prime Minister Abe declared a state of emergency last week and designated high risk cities including Tokyo.

The declaration enables local officials to take measures such as requesting the cancellation of events and restricting use of facilities such as schools.

In Tokyo, particular shops are required to be closed or restricted their opening hour.

No bars and restaurants can be opened after 20:00.

Going outside is not allowed for unnecessary purpose however there's no fine or punishment for the breach of requirements at this moment.

My families are all well and health so far fortunately although some patients have been found in the same town.

I am telling my parents not to go out and minimize the timing to go shopping.

My sister and brother also in Tokyo, they work at home by Company's order.

Schools are closed in Tokyo even preschools thus working mothers are in troubles.

My best friend Reiko who used to be in Roxby Downs, she works for Hilton Tokyo as a secretary of General Manager there, she was going to return from her second maternity leave from this April but postponed because of these situation.

Hilton Hotel is also closed.

Some travel agencies and restaurants are already bankrupt and there will be more and more.

Government will help those who lost business or income but their latest plan is not enough at all.

Their supporting cost will be more than 1 trillion yen.

Me, in Imabari, severeness of corona virus so far is lower than big cities however the number of infection in the district is getting more.

From tomorrow, I will work at home 3 times a week and go to office twice a week.

Desk arrangements in the office has been changed not to be close to anybody, it looks really strange.

Masks are gone from all stores and people are standing in lines in front of drug stores waiting for masks to arrive.

My company employing more than one thousand of crew (Korean and Filipino) and people who are on board ships now cannot disembark even of their contract expire.

I am making instruction how to prevent and control COVID-19 on board ships to crew including the actions to be taken if any crew are suspected as the patient.

Yuji is also working at home.

Schools are open here but it may be closed once corona virus come to Imabari so we are not sure how it will be in next month.

Yes, Kiina is leaning English, not like Savannah though. She can go anywhere in the world!

Kona, 4 years-old, he is not growing as faster than his sister but that's what boys are I believe.

It is nice to find things to do at home like you and Robbie.

Your house and garden will be renovated by the time corona virus is gone.

No other choice but only activities we can enjoy at home we should find.

Hope this pandemic outbreak will end soon.

Please stay safe.

Keep in touch.

Love,

Mizuki and Yuji

## **WHY DID YOU JOIN ROTARY?**

### **101 Reasons for Rotary Well almost!)**

- Rotary gives members personal satisfaction
- Rotary is great for teaching members new skills
- Rotary members are never lonely, (or in self isolation, really)
- Rotary is a team effort
- Rotary members work towards improving the community.

Rotary provides students with confidence building programs  
Rotary offers so many opportunities to youth  
Rotary assists youth in better international understanding  
Rotary gives students global opportunities  
Rotary provides students with leadership training

These were submitted by one of our members. See if you can add to them and we just might get to 101!!

### **SEE!!! WE ARE NEVER ALONE IN ISOLATION**

Be careful because people are going crazy from being in lock down! Actually I've just been talking about this with the microwave and toaster while drinking coffee and we all agreed that things are getting bad. I didn't mention anything to the washing machine as she puts a different spin on everything. Certainly not to the fridge as he is acting cold and distant. In the end, the iron straightened me out as she said everything will be fine, no situation is too pressing. The vacuum was very unsympathetic... told me to just suck it up, but the fan was more optimistic and hoped it would all soon blow over! The toilet looked a bit flushed when I asked its opinion and didn't say anything but the door knob told me to get a grip. The front door said I was unhinged and so the curtains told me to .....yes, you guessed it .....pull myself together.

**PLEASE SUBMIT ALL MATERIAL FOR  
THE NEWSLETTER IN ARIAL FONT, 12  
POINT WITH JPEG PICTURES,  
OTHERWISE THE EDITOR GOES NUTS.**