

**PRESIDENT DAVID VIRGIN**

**2020/2021**



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**MEETING NUMBER 2061 THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020 Venue: Grosvenor Hotel**

This meeting was chaired by Ken Carter

Presidents Report:

- Fundraising craft and morning teas at the Virgin home this week to raise funds for New Life Africa School. Well done Janice and her team of crafters.



- Next week's meeting will be held at the Pt Elliot Memorial Gardens at 6pm for 6.30 walk and talk by Sue Dixon. \$20 for meal. Tables and chairs available. BYO drinks

Guests in Attendance: Ashley Porter

Secretary Report:

- The VHHS awards will be presented on December 2<sup>nd</sup> which coincides with our DG visit. If anyone would like to connect to the awards ceremony via video please let me know.
- Rotary Member Census has been circulated – please consider completing it.

Directors Reports:

Community Service: K. Carter – help required for December 12<sup>th</sup> for the Christmas Tree display. Isabelle McGarry is judging the trees.

Guest Speaker: Ashley Porter, Editor of Coastlines

Ashley spoke on his career in journalism and the changes to his profession over the years. He spoke of the sacrifices made during his career and explained the very tight timelines of a sports journalist. Ashley thanked our members on behalf of the community for our

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commitment to service. He stated how he enjoyed the culture of this town with our vibrant and community minded population. Ashley and Jenny now produce the monthly high quality magazine 'Coastlines'.

**Membership:** 30 + 2 HM

**In attendance:** 1 guest, 21 members, 4 LoA, 4 Apologies, 1 AWOL, Attendance 70%

**RAFFLES:** Club Raffle won by; Bob McFarland and donated by Peter Francis  
200 Club won by No. 97 Graham Brown

### **What is Give the Gift of Reading?**

For the past 3 years the Victor Harbor Library has hosted an initiative, created by Playford Library services, which invites all South Australian Libraries promoting the "Gift of Reading" this Christmas.

The VH Library are happy to announce that they will be running this wonderful program again in the 2020 Christmas Season!

If you would like to get involved this year, simply purchase a NEW children's book (for children aged 0 – 18 years) and drop it at the library.

These books will be wrapped by volunteers then distributed by Grandparents for Grandchildren SA, to South Australian families in need this Christmas.

### **OUR INTERNATIONAL PROJECT IN HAITI.**

I need the help of every club member. It won't take you very long, but it can be very productive. I would encourage every Rotary Club of Encounter Bay member to use the social media as much as possible to share the following website:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/rotary-challenges-poverty-literacy-in-haiti>

Encourage your friends to also share this site with their 'friends', so our pyramid selling is effective. A small effort on your behalf can help our Rotary cause immensely.

Thanks to those generous members who have seen fit to donate to this cause. The project is gaining momentum. While I have not been attending club meetings, I am spending

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approx 2 days each week making sure our club efforts will be rewarded. Here is a quick update.

### HAITI Project:

I have written a training manual on teaching children to read, and that is being translated into Kreyòl. The only problem is that teachers can't read! The starting point is to model the processes as we teach the teachers – that is happening with the help of Summits Education, and HEPI (two other volunteer groups). I meet with each of these groups via zoom at least once every week, and the Rotary Group (Partners In Literacy, Haiti) based in South Carolina at least once a week. The latter group is driving our project. It is time consuming but we are making progress.

In the meanwhile, we have documented the Kreyòl language, developed an alphabet chart, and published 6 books in Kreyòl and French written by Rotary Club of Encounter Bay members. On the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> January we will bring together teachers from 11 pilot schools to teach them how to read, and to teach them how to use the books we have written. About 47 teachers and 10 Principals will make their way from their remote schools to LaChapelle, where we will train them in how to read and how to teach reading. They are excited. We have some 1700+ children who have made a commitment to learn to read.

Our club can be proud that we have so far given 40,000 children access to reading resources through our initial input of "Roo Goes to School", and now we have a much more in depth program underway helping the most remote and disadvantaged communities in Haiti. There are 350,000 children who can't read so making our efforts sustainable from here is the next challenge.

We have spent \$18000 USD this year in getting books and alphabet charts printed (approx. \$5000 USD from Rotary Club of Encounter Bay and District 9520), with the rest being scrounged from other support groups. The gofundme website is important in getting the project sufficient funds to help with distribution and training.

Peter Manuel

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