

## Presidents Report

This week we cancelled our usual Wednesday meeting and instead attended a meeting hosted by R C Glen Waverley, the guest speaker being former Premier of Victoria and founder of Beyond Blue, Jeff Kennett.

Jeff Kennett gave a presentation on mental health, covering issues including the prevalence of mental health in the community, the reluctance of some people to accept it as an illness, organizations able to assist people suffering or at risk, and the importance of maintaining a fitness regime in senior years.

While Jeff Kennett has many detractors from his political background, his presentation last night was extremely well received by all present.

On Tuesday I was invited to speak to about 100 year 1 and year2 students on “What is Rotary?” and “What does Rotary do” This was part of a Community Service unit being introduced to students. I was somewhat surprised at the level of interest in the subject by such young people, and the knowledge of the Rotary name. I held up the large cast iron Rotary Wheel, and most of them seemed to be able to tell me that they had seen one, and in some cases , where.

Importantly it provided me with the opportunity to get a message to teachers about our youth programs. Interestingly, teachers and a couple of students approached me to express interest in donating clothing and children’s books for overseas. I am sure Geoff Taylor will have the logistics issues covered when the donations come through!

Looking at the calendar of events for the remainder of the year, the last Rotary night was to be the Christmas Party on 4 December. The Children’s Christmas party follows on the 7<sup>th</sup>, so I have proposed that we have a final social get together on 11<sup>th</sup> so we are not saying our last “Merry Christmases “at the children’s party.

Robyn has kindly offered to find a suitable venue, so the venue on the 11<sup>th</sup> at this stage is “tba, not LOH.

Until next Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>

Terry