

The Rotary Club of Port Macquarie P.O. Box 136, Port Macquarie **NSW 2444**

- President Bob Cleland
- President-Elect Elizabeth Fielding
- Vice President Glenda Barber
 - Secretary Geoff Slack
 - Treasurer Frank Moxon
 - **Club Service Director -**
 - Debbie Loveday (acting)
- **Community Service Director** - Elizabeth Fielding
- **International Service** Director - Ray Hodgson
- **Vocational Service Director -**Neil Porter
- Youth Service Director Gil Padarin-Innes
- Membership Director vacant

Club Meetings each Wednesday @ Port Panthers 6pm for 6-30pm start.

- **Apologies or bookings** to - Elizabeth Fielding Phone - 0407 369 512 Email -• fielding.ej@gmail.com
 - **Club Bank Details BSB 932-000** a/c 500 186 792
- Past District Governors -Roger Dulhunty 1969-70; Ivan Meldrum 1975-76; Laurie Barber 2006-07: **District Governor Elect -**2020-21 Debbie Loveday **District Governor Nominee** -2021-22 David Mayne
 - **Bulletin Editor -**Kerry Medway

Dr Ray Presents a Sobering Zoom message

Dr Ray Hodgson, our club's International Director had to

step-in when our guest speaker was unable to appear at last Wednesday's ZOOM club meet. Ray is one of Port Macquarie's specialist gynaecologists, and Director of the Port Macquarie Campus of the University of NSW School of Medicine.

The Port Wheel

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Ray spoke on the dangers of COVID-19 in the developing world. He said that whilst we have done very well here in Australia in handling the crisis, he fears the dangers of a Covid-19 break out in the poorer countries of the world.

Ray focused on Africa as an example. The population on this continent is 1.2 billion, and at present they have only 2,000 ventilators (compared to 170,000 in USA with a population of one guarter that of Africa's). In many of the African countries with large populations, preventive activities like 'social distancing' and effective hand washing are virtually impossible for most of the population. Furthermore, most African countries have very limited medical resources and little or no access to social welfare. As a result, they are highly likely to suffer massive economic decline once the virus hits them. A 1% fall in GDP in African countries will see 50,000 infants

die, not from the virus, but from other medical problems and starvation! If GDP falls to the predicted 3.7%, the infant death toll could reach a devastating 185,000.

Ray admitted it will be almost impossible

COVID in the Developing World Solutions? Marshall Plan \$14 billion 2. Ramp up Foreign Aid

to stop much of the devastation from Covid-19 in developing countries. He advocated for something like the Marshall Plan, where after WW2 \$14billion was provided by the USA to help rebuild Western European countries ravaged by war. He pleaded for Western countries to wipe-off the \$44 billion debt to struggling African countries. He appealed to affluent countries like ours to ramp-up foreign aid. He hoped Rotary may be able to offer support & RAWCS could come to the fore.

Ray appealed for us - to show solidarity to people beyond our borders.

Winner of the PDG Barrie Titcume (1971-72) Trophy for best club bulletin in 2018-2019 in Rotary District 9650, Australia.

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COVID in the Developing World



