**President’s Report 2020-21 for AGM, May 2021**

The last 12 months have seen us make our way back into the swing of things and we have managed to achieve some wonderful things. As you heard in the Financial report, we have provided significant help to our local community and have also supported some international campaigns.

We’ve had wonderful contributions from so many this year, and we must say a huge thank you to the Board Members, who have done our Club proud and helped lead us back to full activity. All members deserve special appreciation and the various teams organising things have done a mighty job. Thank you all.

We have had some interesting first this year, with a new Award created, which we called the ‘Living Treasure Award’, for a local woman whose outstanding contributions to our community deserve recognition. This will be an annual award.

We also hired some professionals to produce a promotional video for our Club and I believe this is another first.

The last couple of years have reminded us that there are often several ways to do things and our willingness to try new things has resulted in us learning new skills.

We successfully hosted our first online Trivia event, which was a great success! There’ s a nice story there as we were joined by the Zonta Club of Melton. This came about because we had decided to reach out to a Melbourne Zonta Club when they were locked down for so long, to offer our support. Their members ended up joining our online Trivia event, and later their club went on to host an online Trivia of their own, which we were able to attend.

It is a credit to our Club that we have embraced the Zoom experience as a way to offer more options for members, thus allowing us to improve equity for women who want to be involved with Zonta, which is a very Zontian thing to do.

Zoom has allowed us to participate when we are potentially infectious, or not feeling well enough to attend in person, and has been appreciated at times by some of our members who are not up to a long drive home to outlying areas. Importantly, it has also proved helpful in retaining members that we traditionally have lost. We have feedback that it has increased our retention of the demographic of women with young children, as on those occasions where there is no childcare available, it allows them to organise the children and then participate from home.

This year’s Board members have really appreciated the opportunity to continue to have our Board Meetings via Zoom as well, saving us all some time, and we know how precious time is.

Zoom has increased our reach and I thank all of you for your patience and willingness to persist while we wrestled with the technology and worked out the issues.

I think we can officially say that we are a very dynamic, modern Club, and whatever challenges are put in front of us, we just keep moving with the times. Thank you and congratulations to you all!