RIP MAX CHESTER OAM

It is with great sadness that I announce that Max Chester passed away peacefully this morning. As members are aware, Max had been in the Austin Hospital for approximately 6 weeks since having a fall at home.

Max was an outstanding Rotarian in his 50th year of service. A Past President and Past Secretary he had held virtually every office in our Club. His wonderful contribution was recognised by being presented with a Paul Harris Fellowship.

He had of course also been awarded an Order of Australia medal and was active in that organisation, much to the benefit of the Rotary Club of Heidelberg, as he attended their meetings, milking their members for an endless supply of fascinating speakers for us.

Although the attendance requirements have been reduced, Max rarely missed a meeting and ensured that new members were made to feel welcome as he got to know them. We were very fortunate to have Max in our Club and as our friend. He will be sadly missed.

Our heartfelt condolences to Elaine and her family.

President Tony
GUEST SPEAKER – Dr Ros McMillan

Last Monday we were treated to a talk with a difference. What a story emerged from the (concealed!) rustling of paper! Dr Ros McMillan, the latest in a long line of wonderful speakers brought to us by Max Chester, spoke to the title “My World of Music”, given to her by Max!

She has had a teaching career of more than 50 years, been Director of Music at a major private school in Melbourne and Head of Music Education at the University of Melbourne, where she is currently an Honorary Senior Fellow. She has written seven school music texts that are used by thousands of students and teachers in Australia and throughout the world.

A very talented and accomplished keyboard player, with a particular interest in improvisation, Ros extended our awareness and appreciation of music. Assisted by our newest member, she gave us insight into how the young, and the rather older, can be helped to appreciate their music more deeply, through careful listening, “feel” and imagination. Listening to Vivaldi’s “The Four Seasons” will never be the same again! More than one in the audience will be following up with Ros’s books!

A great talk, to which her audience listened with rapt attention! Thanks Ros. 

RL
Keppel wins again !!!

N.B. There will be a “Secret Santa” session during the evening. Every member (not partner) must bring one suitably wrapped present to the value of $15 max. It will be fun, so please enter into the spirit of it. Some of you may know it as Kris Kringle, but it will be explained on the night.
President’s report

This has been an interesting year for the Rotary Club of Heidelberg. I agreed to become the first “recycled President” in February 2017 when there did not appear to be any alternative. My main objective was to try to continue the good work of Wayne Dunstan in rebuilding our Club. Whilst we inducted four new members and have another nomination being processed, I had hoped that we might have done a lot better.

Sadly, we lost three outstanding Rotarians namely Lynne Rodda, Tom Brown and Max Chester each of whom passed away this year. David Schultz resigned his membership this week but will remain as a friend of our Club. Declining membership is the greatest issue confronting us and I encourage all members to look around, not just leaving it to others.

Our major fundraising event was the Golf Day. We have ended the year with significant funds in our account. In May we planned to donate $10,000 to the Olivia Newton John Centre, anticipating that this would also provide some welcome exposure and possibly attract new members. At the same time however, the State government announced funding of $18 million to the ONJ Centre, so our proposed donation paled into insignificance. The Board decided that, rather than simply writing cheques we would retain funds so that we have a substantial kitty for projects in the new year.

Our Club has run smoothly through the year, thanks in particular to the care and attention to detail of our Secretary Laurie Rose and our Treasurer Kent Goodwin and I would like to take this opportunity to thank both once again for their efforts. I would also like to thank all the Board members for their work throughout the year. Special mention also to Max Chester who continued to supply us with a wide variety of interesting speakers as he has done for so many years. Max passed away last Friday. The level of esteem in which he was held by our members was reflected in the number of whom visited him regularly during his stay in the ONJ Centre.

Thank you also to Bruce Nichols for his efforts in producing the Cog each week - and for prompting the President to provide his part.

This year we have an updated website, thanks to the work of Peter Carr and his team as they have sought to drag us out of the Dark Ages.

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as your President and I thank you all once again.

Finally, I would like to wish Noel Sturgeon best wishes as he assumes the Presidency, a role which I am confident that he will undertake well.

Tony Bowlen