

ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF BEING A PAST PRESIDENT OF THIS ROTARY CLUB AND DISTRICT GOVERNOR NOMINEE IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE ASKED TO MAKE A PRESENTATION TO RECOGNISE A PERSON WHOSE LIFE DEMONSTRATES A SHARED PURPOSE WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ROTARY FOUNDATION.

A PAUL HARRIS FELLOW IS A RECOGNITION THAT WAS INTRODUCED INTO ROTARY IN 1957 IN HONOUR OF PAUL HARRIS WHO FOUNDED ROTARY IN 1905.

IT WAS ESTABLISHED TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR A CONTRIBUTION OF \$1000 US OR MORE TO THE HUMANITARIAN AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS OF THE ROTARY FOUNDATION.

WE RECOGNISE A PERSON TONIGHT ON WHOSE BEHALF OUR CLUB HAS MADE A CONTRIBUTION OF \$1000 US TO THE ROTARY FOUNDATION TO ENABLE IT TO CARRY OUT PROGRAMS THAT MAY IMPROVE CONDITIONS IN THE WORLD SUCH AS INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION. LITERACY, POLIO IMMUNIZATION AND GOODWILL AND UNDERSTANDING THROUGH A WIDE RANGE OF CULTURAL AND HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMMES.

WE HAVE KNOWN KATH BYER FOR ABOUT 40 YEARS, HER DEDICATION AND ACHIEVEMENTS ARE KNOWN TO ALL OUR MEMBERS. WE BELIEVE KATH UPHOLDS THE ROTARY IDEAL OF SERVICE ABOVE SELF BY HER SERVICE TO OUR ROTARY CLUB AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

IN MIETTA'S REVIEW KATH HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS THE "REVEREND MOTHER" OF PUBLICANS. SHE HAS WATCHED 3 GENERATIONS OF PATRONS GROW UP THROUGH HER NEIGHBOURHOOD AND KNOWS ALL HER PATRONS BY THEIR FIRST NAMES. SHE IS SAID TO "EXERT A GRACEFUL, RELAXED AND YET FORCEFUL PRESENCE OVER HER SPRAWLING SUBURBAN EMPIRE" COVERING ALMOST 1 HECTARE WITH 3 BARS, 2 BEER GARDENS, 2 BISTROS, A TAB AND A BOTTLE SHOP – FAR FROM THE QUIET LITTLE COUNTRY PUB THAT KATH PURCHASED WITH HER LATE HUSBAND IN 1936 – FERNTREE GULLY ROAD WAS THEN A DIRT TRACK AND THE FARMERS FROM THE MARKET GARDENS AND LABOURERS FROM THE ABATTOIRS AND BRICKWORKS DRANK MELBOURNE BITTER, CARLTON DRAUGHT AND ABBOTSFORD STOUT.

NOW OFFICE WORKERS AND STUDENTS FROM MONASH UNIVERSITY MINGLE WITH FACTORY WORKERS AND TRADESMEN AND DRINK WINE AND DESIGNER BEERS.

IN 2005 KATH WAS AWARDED THE PRESTIGIOUS NIKAKIS BENCHMARK AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT IN THE HOTEL INDUSTRY. KATH BEGINS WORK AT AROUND 8AM AND SELDOM GOES UPSTAIRS UNTILL 11PM. RETIREMENT IS NOT ON THE CARDS –TO QUOTE HER WORDS – "NOT TILL I DIE DEAR"

WOMEN PUBLICANS ARE OFTEN LOOKED ON AS SURROGATE MOTHERS AND PATRONS WILL MORE THAN LIKELY TAKE THEIR ADVICE PARTICULARLY WHEN ITS TIME TO GO..

ONE DAY IN THE EARLY 1990S A MAN CAME WITH A JACKHAMMER TO INSTALL POKIES – HE HAD THE WRONG HOTEL BUT KATH SENT HIM PACKING WITH THE WORDS “I DON’T WANT THEM THEY WOULD SPOIL THIS PUB. IT’S MORE OF A FAMILY PUB” IN FACT IT IS KATH’S SUPPORT OF THE MANY FAMILIES IN THEIR TIMES OF NEED THAT SETS HER APART FROM OTHERS. SHE HAS DRIVEN HOME DRINKERS WHO MAY HAVE HAD ONE TOO MANY OR GIVEN THEM A BED UPSTAIRS AND DISCREETLY HELPED LOCALS WHO WERE STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY.

MOIRA FULTON REMEMBERS SHE AND HER LATE HUSBAND AND CHARTER MEMBER OF OUR CLUB, ALLAN ATTENDING BALLS AT THE ST.KILDA TOWN HALL ORGANISED BY KATH IN SUPPORT OF ST.VINCENTS HOSPITAL AND SHE HAS BEEN A LONG TIME SUPPORTER OF ST.PETERS CHURCH IN CLAYTON. IF ALLAN WAS HERE TONIGHT HE WOULD BE THRILLED TO RELATE SOME OF HIS STORIES OF KATH AND THE NOTT AND EQUALLY THRILLED TO SEE KATH RECEIVE THIS RECOGNITION.

WHENEVER WE HAVE ASKED KATH FOR SUPPORT OF OUR ROTARY CLUB’S ANNUAL GOLF DAY NOTHING GETS SAID BUT A CHEQUE ARRIVES WITHIN A FEW DAYS.

KATH, I HAVE GREAT PLEASURE ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT GLENDA AND THE MEMBERS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CLAYTON IN PRESENTING YOU (WITH GLENDAS HELP) WITH THESE THREE EMBLEMS OF A PAUL HARRIS FELLOW: THE CERTIFICATE.....A LAPEL PIN.....AND A MEDALLION.

THE CERTIFICATE STATES THAT YOU HAVE BEEN NAMED A PAUL HARRIS FELLOW “IN APPRECIATION OF THE TANGIBLE ASSISTANCE GIVEN FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN PEOPLES OF THE WORLD. PLEASE ACCEPT OUR CONGRATULATIONS AND SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMON GOALS OF WORLD PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RESPOND?

WOULD YOU PLEASE ALL RISE AND JOIN ME IN CONGRATULATING OUR NEWEST PAUL HARRIS FELLOW, KATH BYER