

RCH Alumni AGM and Gala Dinner

15th November 2022

Last night was the first time in three years that the Alumni could again come together and enjoy the AGM and Gala dinner at the Kew Golf Club.

The evening started off with drinks and canapes and the AGM with President Jim Wilkinson presiding over events together with Secretary Caroline Clarkson, Vice-President Garry Warne and Treasurer George Werther.



The AGM was followed by a three-course dinner with our wonderful speaker – Arnold Zable who delivered the Alum-Oration – ‘The Power of Story – A Writer’s Journey’.

Arnold Zable is an acclaimed writer, novelist, storyteller, and human rights advocate, and the recipient of the 2021 Australia Council Lifetime Achievement Award for Literature.



Arnold took us on his journey from 387 Canning St in North Carlton (that became his haven) where he first arrived in Australia with his parents as refugees, to Café Scheherazade in Acland St St Kilda where many like-minded multi-cultural immigrants

gathered to share stories, and onto his travels in Ithaca (his wife’s ancestral home) Russia, Asia, China and most recently Poland.

His writing all began in Canning St where he found it to be a source of expression. He would go into his bedroom feeling rage and then the pen would take over and he would feel light afterwards. By ‘writing it out’ he could ‘work it out’. ‘Expression’ was the beginning of writing as a craft and the first of three elements to make a good story-teller. ‘Impression’ was the second and this involved listening to other people’s tales and bearing witness then working out how to craft it for other people. The third, the artist’s story, is ‘the Art of the Specific’ – a mirror reflection that can be seen in other places, for example refugees in Ukraine, Arabia, Iran etc.



Arnold read several passages from his books and they were so powerful, so beautifully written by a true wordsmith. He said it was the detail that counts and that if you take note the magic is always there.

What followed was a night of catching up with fellow alumni in a very convivial environment.



