



In June our Club signed on as a foundation member of the multi-club, Centenary of Rotary in Australia Community Service project, RIMERN (Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network).

We joined a growing number of Rotary Clubs around Melbourne to drive an exciting, 'hands on' service project that, like EERN (Eastern Emergency Relief Network) in Mitcham and WERN (Western Emergency Relief Network) in Ravenshall, is collecting donated furniture, appliances and household goods, to distribute to people in need from all over inner Melbourne.

The people we will be supporting will be introduced by welfare agencies that sign up as members, and who, with their Case Manager, will select the items they need to set up their secure housing following long term homelessness, escaping domestic violence, coming out of jail, loss from disaster, ill health or other situations of dire need including refugee/asylum seeker challenges.

On 15th June, RIMERN moved into a 2 level, 700m² warehouse at 32-34 Lincoln Street, East Brunswick and has begun stocking up with donated goods & getting an online registration & ordering system established.

To help pay the commercial rate of rent and outgoings, RIMERN has a sub-tenant, Canard Solutions (www.cansol.com.au) that specialises in downsizing, decluttering and estates, and who have for 5 years or so been donating to EERN, WERN & other charities, but who now are directing the furniture & household goods to RIMERN. This great synergy has made it possible for RIMERN to hit the ground running, even without a truck or van of its own yet.

The next steps that our Club will get involved in, are:

- **building a volunteer force** to help with a range of tasks, from sourcing donated goods, liaising with welfare agencies, helping with administration, sorting donations and repacking them into household kits, warehouse management, accompanying clients for goods selection, goods collection (involving driving a furniture truck & helping to load/unload), fundraising & Grant writing, volunteer recruitment/orientation & rostering, and awareness building.
Some roles can be done from home, others at the warehouse on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays between 9.30 & noon and 1pm & 3.30pm, plus at least one Saturday a month so our employed members & friends can help too.
- **Spreading the word** by joining the RIMERN facebook group & encouraging others to do so too, to see all the exciting milestones & achievements and engaging a wider audience in the project's achievements.

Some of the RIMERN milestones already achieved include:

- Receipt of a generous donation of shelving & a pallet jack from Bunnings Brunswick
- Receipt of 7 pallets of new linen & kitchenware from Good360 free of charge
- Donated furniture from Blue Cross Aged Care & many private donors
- Truckload of goods delivered from EERN & more promised from both EERN & WERN.
- A working bee with Rotaractors from E-Club of Melbourne & Boroondara who are keen to be involved on a regular basis.
- Achievement of Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status that makes all donations to RIMERN tax deductible.
- Our first outbound delivery to a client of Wombat Housing Support who had just come out of jail but whose DHHS flat had been trashed by squatters & pigeons while he was away. We supplied, bed, sofa, dining table & chairs, linen, kitchenware & side tables & he was absolutely thrilled & so grateful.

Our Club got involved in RIMERN because it will be a great way to support our local Melbourne community, involve our members in fun & effective hands on service, and as a means to engage volunteers who may become new members of our Club.

The working bees will be starting as soon as the new goods lift is operational and we'll need your help, so please sign up as a Volunteer, let us know what you'd like to help with and your availability.

Thanks,

Richard Chater & David Gorman

Club Representatives on the RIMERN Committee of Management.