



ESsential News May 2021

E&S Committee:

Co Chairs:

Fabienne Nichola, RC Camberwell
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John McCaskill, RC Canterbury
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Peter Berg, RC Melbourne

David Dippie, RC Keilor

Chris Don, RC Chadstone East Malvern

Anne Frueh, RC Balwyn

Donna Martin, RC Bacchus Marsh

Lesley McCarthy, RC Flemington

It's been a busy time in District 9800 in the final few weeks of the Rotary year. I hope you were able to attend the Multi District Conference and District Assembly. Both were inspiring and informative forums in readiness for the 2021/2022 Rotary year. Three Clubs' environmental projects received well deserved District Awards together with three environmental leaders.

Two main events to highlight in the coming weeks are the Melbourne Pollinator Corridor Walk by Emma Cutting which has been deferred to a date to be advised, due to the current lockdown, and, the celebration of Environment Day with an 'Environment Area of Focus Launch' on 4 June 2021 as detailed in this newsletter. I encourage you to join/attend both these two events.

[Like the ESRAG LinkedIn page](#)

[Like the ESRAG Facebook page](#)

Co-Chairs, Environmental Sustainability Committee
Fabienne Nichola John McCaskill

Dates for your calendar:

Environment Area of Focus Launch

Friday 4 June at 6.00pm AEST

<https://events.humanitix.com/environment-aof>

World Environment Day

Saturday 5 June

Reimagine, Recreate, Restore

[World Environment Day](#)

#IfixthePlanet winners announced!

Friday 11 June 2021

Gardening Australia on ABC with Costa:

Emma Cutting speaks about the Heart Gardening Project—Nature Strip Gardens

ESRAG ANZPI Chapter Meeting

Tuesday 22 June 2021: 7.30pm AEDT

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84902521635>

Friday 11 June 2021

[ESRAG Convention meeting](#)

Tuesday 10 August

Climate and Peace Forum

<https://climateandpeace.com.au>

[Department of Agriculture, Water & Environment Calendar](#)

Our District Environment Team presented an excellent session to participants at the recent District Assembly. This was the first time environment has been featured and we were delighted with the attendance.

Led by Co-chair Fabienne Nichola and with contributions from many team members, an overview of the work of the team and opportunities for clubs to be active and involved in the new area of focus were shown.

Together with 2 excellent videos showcasing our work, attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and gain assistance for their clubs. [Watch the presentation here.](#)

Club Environment Team chairs and interested members are encouraged to visit the [District website](#) and the [ESRAG ANZPI](#) website for ideas and support materials, to request a speaker or to find inspiration for the next activity.



Environment Area of Focus Launch

Friday June 4th: 6:00pm - 7:15pm AEST

Interviews, Project Videos and Speed Networking from around the Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands region



Prof. Lesley Hughes

Lesley is Professor and Pro Vice-Chancellor at Macquarie University. Her research has mainly focused on climate change and its impact.



Ian & Juliet Riseley

Ian was Rotary Intl. Past President 2017/18. Juliet is a PDG of D9810



Dr. Roger Blakeley

In 2015 Roger was the chief architect of the Auckland City Plan Blueprint. He is currently a councillor at Greater Wellington Regional Council.

Register Today for this free Zoom Forum: <https://events.humanitix.com/environment-aof>

More info on the programme: www.esraganzpi.org/environment-aof

Quick links:

<https://rotarydistrict9800.org.au/sitepage/environment-sustainability>

The Environment video for District Conference

<https://vimeo.com/542061915>

<https://www.esrag.org/esrag-uneep-handbook>

<https://www.esraganzpi.org/>

Share the ESRAG 2 minute video introducing the new Area of Focus: 'Supporting the Environment.'

[The Green Event checklist](#)

[ESRAG on Facebook](#)

Webinar recordings:

Operation Pollination

<https://vimeo.com/475395701>

[The Climate and Peace Forum videos](#)

[WHEEN BEE Foundation](#)

[Powerful Pollinator Planting guides](#)

[Victorian Indigenous Nursery Co-Op](#)

[Cities for People and Nature](#)

Join ESRAG:

<https://www.esrag.org/membership-form>

US\$30 per year or

US\$125 for 5 years.

Just US\$15 per year for ages 17-25.



We are seeking assistance with social media and marketing for ESRAG ANZPI and the

District 9800 Environment & Sustainability team.

Email [Rob](#)

The Melbourne Pollinator Corridor is an initiative of the District 9800 Environmental Committee led by Peter Berg of Melbourne Rotary.

Based on the Heart Garden Project founded by Emma Cutting, this project aims to develop a wildlife corridor stretching about 8km from Westgate Park to The Royal Botanic Gardens. It will connect people to people, people to nature and nature to nature.

This corridor will be made up of at least 80 gardens and will create biodiversity through gardens built with local energy and positivity - a win for humans and nature in an extremely urbanised area.

For wildlife, this corridor will provide desperately needed habitat for native pollinators not only between these larger green patches but many other smaller green spaces in between. It will help create stronger genetic diversity in our fauna and flora, increased habitat and nesting sites and the ability for nature to move more freely.

This is a project that benefits all humans big and small rich and poor as these indigenous gardens are accessible at all times right along the footpaths. For local residents, it will be a vital opportunity to create community cohesion, an increased sense of place and connection to earth, an awareness of local biodiversity and pride in joyful, positively locally created gardens. This corridor will help fight climate change and create a more robust earth- helping with major urban challenges such as the heat island effect and water retention issues

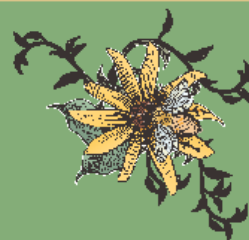
The Pollinator Corridor will run through 5 suburbs - Melbourne, Southbank, South Melbourne, Albert Park and Port Melbourne. The exact map is being worked out at the moment, however the light rail at Turner Reserve will be used and at this point, Bank St looks like a great street to work down. Holly Kirk, an urban spatial ecologist has been consulted and is advising along the way.

The project is beginning as a pollinator corridor for native bees and other insects due to the lack of flora in the built up areas. Grants to support the gardens are available and a Street Gardening Booklet is being developed.

For more information contact Peter Berg pberg8@bigpond.net.au

[The Heart Garden Project](#)

MELBOURNE POLLINATOR CORRIDOR



On 11 June 2021, Emma Cutting talks to ABC host, Costa Georgiadis, about her Heart Gardening Project

District 9800 celebrates the Environment at the District Conference.

District Recognitions were awarded to:

The Rotary Club of Bendigo South for their project to restore bushfire ravaged areas in Gippsland following the devastating bushfires in January 2020. Members collected seeds from native plants and trees and they have been grown in polystyrene boxes.

When they reached a viable stage, they were allocated to members to babysit in individual boxes with specific 'care' instructions including for water, sunlight and location.

Members will deliver the seedlings to Bairnsdale in late July where they will be planted out to repair the landscape and ecosystem. Congratulations Bendigo South!



The Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington commenced the Rotary Overseas Recycled Playgrounds project in 2017. Unwanted playgrounds are received from councils and schools who are decommissioning them and are then sent to disadvantaged countries. Initially starting with a Sister Club Agreement with the Rotary Club of Colombo to send one container, the project has spread to East Timor, Papua New

Guinea, the Philippines, Tanzania and Nepal.

7 containers have now been shipped with partnerships developed with 32 councils, 28 Rotary Clubs in all Victorian Districts, 12 industry professionals and a number of schools. The value of repurposed equipment is in excess of \$350,000 and this has saved metal, plastic and wood from landfill while bringing joy to children and promoting play. Congratulations Flemington Kensington.



Rob Anderson, Rotary Club of Canterbury is a member of the ESRAG ANZPI and District 9800 teams. He has single handedly developed and maintains the ESRAGANZPI website and has worked solidly as communications lead to create a number of videos promoting the environment. His work in preparing materials for PETS, the District Conference and for other environment events has been amazing. Rob also works on the For-a-Meal Project and is on several ESRAG committees.



John McCaskill, Rotary Club of Canterbury and founder of Rotarians for Bees has focused on the real importance of bees and pollinators in the production of most food we eat. In Australia the numbers of pollinators is dropping due to a variety of causes including pesticides, droughts, fires and loss of habitat. In the last 3 years,

Rotarians for Bees has gained wide recognition within and outside Rotary for raising the plight of bees and other

pollinators and for helping develop supporting projects. has forged close relationships with the When Bee Foundation and other not for profit bee support groups as well as the Victorian Beekeeping industry and has organised a number of key events. [Rotarians for Bees | ESRAG](#)



David Dippie, Rotary Club of Keilor Repurposing surplus reusable goods is one of my area of interest and our District are Rotary leaders in this field. Our Donations In Kind Store is the largest in the world. If you have not visited lately, please look at <http://mediarss.com.au/RotaryTV3/>

The Mobility Aids Project provides free repurposed medical equipment required in the home and for mobility, to disadvantage people who simply can't afford the items they need. Every day the DIK Store is open, medical professionals select equipment for their clients.

The Western Emergency Relief Network repurposes household items, that are provide for free to disadvantaged families. Our Op-Shops repurpose a wide range of items and all of the profits are used for Rotary Projects. Please think of them when you have items you no longer require and join the growing band of people who favour repurposed items over new. We have excellent specialist groups like Recycled Sound, who divert hearing aids from landfill, restore them and provide them to disadvantage people who can't afford new hearing aids, at a fraction of the cost. With the range of options our Clubs offer there are opportunities for every Rotarian and Club to be People of Action and contribute in some way. Please look at www.esraganzi.com and check all of our great projects



Congratulations to all award recipients. Please let us know what your club is doing.



The Rotary Club of Bendigo South has "Adopted a Highway". This program aims to reduce litter on Victoria's roadsides to stop pollutants from entering local waterways, improves the quality of vegetation, and prevents soil degradation and erosion. It also promotes civic responsibility, community pride and fellowship. Adopt a Highway volunteers help remove roadside litter and/or undertake revegetation works including the removal of weeds within Victoria's arterial road network in regional Victoria. The Rotary Club of Bendigo South has adopted the **Mclvor Highway from O'Briens Rd to Axedale**, with volunteers arriving with gloves, hat & sometimes gumboots to reduce the litter from the edges of the road. We invite you to join us on the 30th May, meeting at 9am under the "Adopt-A-Highway", just near O'Briens Road. Contact Doug Hawking for more information.

The Rotary Club of Rochester celebrated 100 years of Rotary Down Under with the creation of a herb garden at the court house. The garden was planted out in the shape of the Rotary wheel and filled with a variety of herbs.



Members of the **Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington** planted over 500 trees and groundcovers along the Maribyrnong River for their Rotary100 project. Working in conjunction with Moonee Valley Council and the Moonee Valley Environment group they have created a new habitat and pollinator corridor in Ascot Vale.

Sourcing the appropriate plants from the Victorian Indigenous Nurseries Co-Op has ensured that there is food and habitat for the local fauna, birds and insects along the river.

The Rotary Club of Canterbury worked with Parks Victoria staff and volunteers last week to plant trees and build fences to rejuvenate and renew an area of Yarra Bend Park at Studley Park. A small Commonwealth grant had been received by the former Yarra Bend RC and the funds carried over for the already planned project. Several hundred plants have started a new life in Yarra Bend Park. As well as the planting the group also did some fencing with the aim of restricting access to bike riders who damage the plants and undergrowth.



The Rotary Club of Southern Mitchell have met with Keep Victoria Beautiful representatives to discuss a monument to the region's most famous beekeeper Frederick Buehne. The monument, on the Northern Highway near the Broadford Kilmore Road had fallen into disrepair and was in need of some TLC. Ian Dempsey himself a Beekeeper, and an ESRAGANZPI member, encouraged other Rotarians to assist and they have planted bee friendly plants, removed weeds and installed information boards about Buehne.

[District 9790 Bulletin - https://issuu.com/dredfearn/docs/may_2021_edition](https://issuu.com/dredfearn/docs/may_2021_edition)



Rebecca St Ledger presented to the ESRAG ANZPI April meeting representing the Barwon South West Waste and Resource Recovery Group & the Bellarine Catchment Network spoke about the success of the Zero Waste Queenscliff Music Festival in 2019 for which they were awarded the Premier's Environment and Sustainability award.

The group has now released their guide to planning zero waste events which is available [Zero Waste Event Guide - Barwon South West Waste and Resource Recovery Group \(reduce-recycle.com.au\)](https://www.reduce-recycle.com.au)



Join the UN Decade on Ecosystems restoration and download the [Ecosystem Restoration Playbook](#) here for ideas of what you can do in one or each of the 7 ecosystems:

Forests and trees, Rivers and lakes, Towns and cities, Oceans and coasts, Farmlands and grasslands, Mountains and Peatlands.

What will you and your club do for World Environment Day?

End Plastic Soup (EPS) team, spearheaded by the Rotary Clubs of Amsterdam, have created a colorful and fun toolkit of actions to raise awareness and teach solutions to the problem of plastic pollution. [EndPlasticSoup Action Day - Endplasticsoup](#)

