

ESsential News April 2021

E&S Committee:

Co Chairs:

Fabienne Nichola, RC Camberwell

d9800env.sust@gmail.com

John McCaskill, RC Canterbury

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Peter Berg, RC Melbourne

David Dippie, RC Keilor

Anne Frueh, RC Balwyn

Donna Martin, RC Bacchus Marsh

Lesley McCarthy, RC Flemington

Kensington

Chris Don

Dates for your calendar:

ESRAG ANZPI Chapter Meeting

Thursday 20th May at 6pm

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

World Bee Day

[World Bee Day \(Australia\) – 20 May –](#)

[Helping Protect our Bees](#)

Tuesday 4th May 6.00pm AUS UTC+10

Climate and Peace Forum

<https://climateandpeace.com.au>

Friday 4th June 2021

Launch of the Environment Area of Focus

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

Saturday 5th June 2021

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Friday 11 June 2021

ESRAG Convention meeting

RI Virtual Convention Taipei

[Taipei | Rotary Convention](#)

[2021 Environmental Awareness Days of the Year](#)

Useful links:

[Food Plant Solutions](#)

[Powerful Pollinators – The Wheen](#)

[Bee Foundation](#)

Rotary International Environment Area of Focus Policy Statement:

<https://rcatnow.com/rotary-international-board-environment-area-of-focus-policy-statement/>

There is a lot happening in District 9800 involving the Environment.

Some key events not to be missed include:

District 9800's Showcase & Conference Breakout will be held on **Saturday 1st May 2021** from 10:00 am at Hyatt Place Convention Centre, 1 Larkin Boulevard, Essendon Fields. The Environmental Sustainability District Committee will be part of the Showcase. There will be lots of Project ideas and give aways. Environmental Awards will also be presented at District Club Awards Presentation from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm. It would be great to see you there. Cost is \$65 and includes a gourmet BBQ and tea/coffee. Please book at <https://www.trybooking.com/book/sessions?eid=743590>

On **Sunday 2nd May 2021** from 11am to 1pm, for the first time, all five Victorian Districts will be involved in a Virtual Conference. Presentation will include an Environmental Sustainability Video.

Please book at <https://rotaryconference.org.au/>

Another 'Climate and Peace Forum, Asia – lagging or leading in taking action? And will Australia follow?' on **Tuesday May 4: 6:00 PM**. If previous Forums are to go by, it will be attended by over 400 guests all around the world. Keynote Speakers are highly recognised in their specialist fields. Details in the flyer on the next page.

John McCaskill outlines activities to celebrate World Bee Day on **20 May 2021**.

Peter Berg extends an invitation to a site visit of the proposed 'Melbourne Pollinator Corridor project' at Emma Cutting's neighbourhood in South Melbourne on **Sunday 30th May 11am**. This is an amazing achievement of an individual passionate about the environment.

Finally David Dippie provides an insightful report of the invaluable achievements of Donation in Kind.

Fabienne Nichola
Co-Chair

Promote Environment as the new Area of Focus.

1. Nominate a Club Environmental Sustainability Representative or establish a Committee and let us know the contact details so we can support you.
2. Start a club environmental project.
3. Participate in upcoming Webinars or recordings of past ones that cover your area of interest or for further awareness.
4. Join ESRAG for a wealth of project ideas and other information (you will also become a member of the ESRAG Regional Chapter)
5. Pass on the monthly newsletters to your Club members and other interested contacts.



Quick links:

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

[Bee Friendly: A planting guide for European Honeybees and Australian native pollinators.](#)

Powerful Pollinators:

<https://www.esrag.org/esrag-unep-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:
Planning For Success
<https://vimeo.com/476496978>

Operation Pollination
<https://vimeo.com/475395701>

The Climate and Peace Forum videos

Re-wild to mitigate the climate crisis

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

Climate and Peace Forum, Asia – lagging or leading in taking action? And will Australia follow? Tuesday May 4: 6:00 PM Sydney, AUS. UTC +10.

Speakers: Blair Palese, Editor at Climate & Capital media; Tim Buckley, Director Finance Studies Australia/South Asia; and Zali Steggall, Independent Parliamentary Member of Warringah (NSW).

The **CLIMATE & PEACE FORUM** brings you world leading voices in climate and peace. Through engagement with concerned individuals, we promote climate action to increase advocacy within government and corporate communities; to raise awareness of NGOs, Rotary and individuals; to identify and promote activities and to establish partnerships. This quarterly event is initiated by Rotarians for everyone. We look forward to you joining us. The Forum is an initiative of the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove, supported by the Rotary Clubs of Sydney, Darling Harbour and Corrimal (Australia). To register <https://climateandpeace.com.au/>



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 information at: <https://esraganzpi.org/environment-aof>

Environment in the news:

A very interesting article in the latest Food Plant Solutions newsletter on the importance of dark leafy green leaves in our diets. Did you know that even today about a quarter of a million birth defects each year are due to folates or inadequate leaves being eaten. And about 30% of the women of the world are anaemic or iron deficient due to lack of green leaves. A child goes blind every minute due to Vitamin A deficiency. [April 2021 Newsletter - Food Plant Solutions](#)

Even before announcing Environment as the 7th Area of Focus, Rotary has carried out thousands of projects around the world and given over \$18 million dollars to eco friendly projects around the world.

[Eleven eco-friendly service projects around the world | Rotary International](#)

Is green hydrogen the fuel of the future? [Is green hydrogen the fuel of the future? - ABC News](#)

Congratulations Professor Tim Flannery, renowned environmentalist, and Chief Climate Councillor has been awarded the Geddes Environment Medal.

[Tim Flannery Wins International Award For Climate Work | Climate Council](#)

The Melbourne Pollinator Corridor by Peter Berg

What is it? The MPC will be 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 all locals, 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 MPC will run about 8 kms through 5 suburbs- Melbourne, Southbank, South Melbourne, Albert Park, Port Melbourne and surrounding areas. The exact map is being worked out at the moment. But the light rail- Turner Reserve- will be used and at this point, Bank St looks like a great street to work down.

Holly Kirk- urban spatial ecologist - has been consulted and is advising along the way

There are 2 Councils involved- City of Melbourne and City of Port Philip. The maintenance of the areas being used are the responsibility of the residents/business owners (local Nature Strip Guidelines to be followed) and using undernourished and undermaintained nature strips outside resident's homes and businesses.

All the gardens will be created within local Nature Strip Guidelines.

Active environmentalist, Emma Cutting, who is the inspiration behind the project has already developed a prototype of what is being proposed. This follows the creation of the local community Heart Gardening Project in the streets of South Melbourne which is Australia's first public nature strip street garden designed and dedicated to encouraging a flourishing honey bee and native bee habitat so crucial to biodiversity, food security and sustainability.

Links to what Emma and her volunteers have created in the streets of South Melbourne can be found at [Heart Gardening Project](#)



As part of promoting The Melbourne Pollinator Corridor project there will be a field visit to the South Melbourne neighbourhood gardens at 11am on Sunday 30th May to see what has been achieved.

This will be the subject of an ABC Gardening Australia segment on 11 June 2021.

Emma Cutting will give an address and a personalised walking tour of her urban street garden project. The cost is \$21.00 for catering by STREAT providing catering training for disadvantaged youth.

Please contact Peter for a flyer and booking details.

Peter Berg

(on behalf of the District 9800 Environmental Sustainability Committee)

Member of Rotary Club of Melbourne ES Committee and D9800 ES Committee

Email: Pberg8@bigpond.net.au

Tel: 0438 302 729

Resources:

Greening Australia: [indigenous-plant-nurseries-greater-melbourne.pdf \(greeningaustralia.org.au\)](#)

Powerful pollinators: <https://www.wheenbeefoundation.org.au/our-work/powerful-pollinators/>

[What you can plant on nature strips in Australia \(and how to do it\) - ABC Everyday](#)

[City of Melbourne Nature Strip Garden guidelines](#)

[Emma Cutting—Emma Cutting \(@theheartgardeningproject\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

World Bee Day



After several years of lobbying and representations to the United Nations, the beautiful small European country of Slovenia in 2017 succeeded in having May 20th proclaimed as World Bee Day. This year is the fourth year where this celebration is occurring throughout the world and it has gone from strength to strength with many events being held on the day and in the week of WBD.

The purpose of this recognition and these celebrations is to raise awareness of bees and their importance (along with other pollinators) to our bio-diversity and food chain. Here in Australia, the celebration and accompanying activities for World Bee Day and Pollination Week (later in the year in October) are coordinated and managed by the Wheen Bee Foundation and it is well worth a visit to the following two websites to learn more about the importance and objectives for WBD and the fascination and amazing story of their significance to our lives and future.....www.worldbeeday.org.au and wheenbeefoundation.org.au

There are many events and celebrations being planned for World Bee Day here in Australia, with very strong involvement through most embassies in ACT and elsewhere. Many of these will be celebrations with Bee focus at Farmers Markets around Australia and many of these are of course managed by local Rotary clubs.

Rotarians for Bees and Rotary District Environment/ Sustainability Committees and clubs have local arrangements happening with the Rotary Club of Eltham being particularly prominent. We are finding potential new members expressing interest in joining Rotary Clubs that have Environment/ Sustainability programs as part of the now seventh Rotary Areas of Focus.

For those with this wider interest, it is well worth visiting the website of ESRAG (Environment and Sustainability Rotary Action Group).....it is exciting to see the range of very significant environmental initiatives being led by Rotary throughout the world. esraganzpi.org/

John McCaskill
RC Canterbury
Rotarians for Bees
john@jmcresources.com.au



Rotarians for BEES



An Initiative of the Rotary Club of Canterbury

Powerful Pollinators Planting Guides: [Powerful Pollinators – The Wheen Bee Foundation](#)

Mallee

Western District

West Gippsland and Westernport

South East Melbourne

Greater Melbourne West



ROTARY AUSTRALIA
WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICE LTD



Rotary Donations In Kind

Rear Shed 39, 400 Somerville Road West Footscray VIC 3012



Donations in Kind Activity Report April 2021

Containers Shipped 2020 -21

20' container units

District	Club Container	Units	Store	Units
9800	Timor Leste	2	Timor Leste	10
	Sri Lanka	6	Congo	2
	Cambodia	2		
	Somaliland	8		
Interstate	Sri Lanka	4		
Total YTD		22		12

Shipping goods has become more challenging. Shipping is slowing down and ports are being bi-passed. Our standard booking time was 1-2 weeks to get space on a ship, it's now 1-2 months. This has also affected the availability of containers. There is a world shortage of available containers and the purchase cost has risen considerably.

We have seven containers ready to be shipped when we can get a booking, plus five planned which can only be actioned when we clear some space. We also shipped ten pallets of Covid19 medical supplies to Brisbane DIK for PNG.

There has be a significant change in destinations in the last few years. Local African supporter groups have discovered our Store and the opportunities we provide to help their countries. They fund the shipping cost and often have a partnership with Rotary Clubs. Many Rotary Clubs are becoming focused on local projects. Most notably there has been a major reduction in support for countries in our Zone. Fundraising opportunities for our Clubs have been significantly affected by Covid19 and we will be feeling the effects of this for some time yet.

There are two other significant changes. **The seventh Area of Focus "Supporting the Environment"** will become active next year with grants available for activities in this area. DIK is a recycling operation and we will be increasing the promotion of this aspect of our operation. It will not affect how we operate, only how we tell our story and we need your help to get the message out.

The Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group is becoming active in our Zone www.esraganzpi.org It's a new group with a lot of enthusiasm and lots of raw edges. We need to see this as a promotional opportunity, not a group trying to steal our glory. Any increase in awareness and support for the Store has to be a positive.

All Rotary Clubs will have the challenge raising funds and it is very important that our Club Members understand how effective their support for our Store is. It may be time for a DIK Guest Speaker at your Club.

Promotion we have a new video which you will see has not been scripted, but it provides a good understanding of the size of our Store. A version will be shown at the D9800 Conference. We will also have a stand at the Conference. The following day ESRAG will be featured and this also features our Store. Our standard handouts have been updated and we continue to promote on our Facebook page.

We are also sending the DIK Inc Clubs items that could be included in you Club Bulletins or on your Facebook pages.

David Dippie

Help for East Timor:

Donations in Kind were offered 125 pallets, yes 125 pallets of hand sanitiser by a wholesaler here in Melbourne. In the roundabout way that these things happen, we learn that the Department of Health in Timor are desperate for these supplies due to the situation with Covid there and the fears that it will get particularly bad in the refugee camps where there are some 8000 people displaced after over 5800 houses were washed away.

We at DiK can put the necessary logistics in place to ship a 40ft container of this sanitiser to Timor but we need the funds to do it. We simply don't have the \$11,000 it will cost to get it there. I am not sure what the financials of your Club are right now but are there some funds available as you approach the end of the Rotary Year that could be applied to the shipping cost of the container. I am casting the net as wide as I can and support from your Club will be very welcome.

Bob Glindeman bob.glindemann@bigpond.com

Rotary shares an interest in protecting our common legacy: the environment.



The solar panels installed at Camp Getaway were installed for free, reduce carbon emissions and save around \$100's annually.

Many buildings in Victoria can receive free solar panels.
For more information www.esraganzpi.org



Project W – Water for Education

Imagine attending school in the tropics with no drinking water available. For many rural schools in Cambodia, this is the reality and the students have to bring their own water.

For four high schools in Siem Reap Province, this is the situation and the 2250 students leave 40,000 plastic bottles annually, creating a major waste issue.

The solution is to install SkyHydrant water filtration systems purchased from Disaster Aid Australia and installed by local contractors. Each school has reliable electricity and access to a water supply.

Some of the infrastructure is in place and the project will utilise existing water tanks, water tank towers and hand-washing troughs. RC Keilor East is very grateful for Rotary Foundation Grant to help with the funding.



The end result of the project will see each school with a plentiful supply of clean water for the students and local villages. It will also eliminate the need to dispose of water in plastic bottles at the schools forever.

Would your club like to be a partner in this project and support one of the schools? For more information contact RC Keilor East PP Cherrie Osbourne 0414 459 487 cherance@tpg.com.au



CONTACT US TODAY
0428 550 574
Shed 40, 400 Somerville Road
WEST POTTSCHAT, VICTORIA, 3012

If you haven't visited Donations in Kind recently, or would like a very concise overview, have a look at this video taken following a visit from members of the Rotary Club of Frankston—[RotaryTV3 \(mediarss.com.au\)](http://RotaryTV3 (mediarss.com.au))