

ESsential News January 2021

E&S Committee:

Co Chairs:

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David Dippie, RC Keilor

Chris Don, RC Chadstone East Malvern

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Brenda Innes, RC Camberwell

Donna Martin, RC Bacchus Marsh

Lesley McCarthy, RC Flemington
Kensington

Dates for your calendar:

ESRAG ANZPI Chapter Meeting

February 4th 2021 6:00PM

<https://events.humanitix.com/anzpi>

Climate and Peace Forum

Tuesday 16 February 2021: 6pm AEDT

[February Climate & Peace Forum](#)

ESRAG ANZPI Chapter Meeting

March 4th 2021 6:00PM

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

Sunday 7 March 2021

Clean Up Australia Day

www.cleanup.org.au

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

World Wetlands Day

2 February to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and our planet. This day also marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on February 2, 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.

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

2021 promises to see world leaders intensify the focus on environmental actions.

Our first newsletter edition this year includes an exciting announcement from Rotary International President Holger Knaack's launch of '[ifixtheplanet](#)'. This initiative is a prelude to the renaming of the new Area of Focus 'Protecting the Environment' on 1 July 2021. I hope you will get your Club involved.

An significant ongoing environmental issue that impacts all of us is waste management. Peter Berg provides some ideas of how you and your Club can make a positive contribution in this area.

One obvious answer to divert waste from landfill is Rotary's flagship recycling establishment DIK (Donations in Kind). David Dippie outlines an interesting example of the distribution of a substantial one-off donation of 'croc shoes'.

A reminder to refer to the District 9800 Environmental Sustainability website and/ or <https://www.esraganzpi.org/> for projects and project ideas to inspire you in 2021. As always, let us know and we are happy to support you in your environmental endeavours.

Promote Environment and Sustainability 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.

[Like the ESRAG LinkedIn page](#)

[Like the ESRAG Facebook page](#)

Co-Chairs, Environmental Sustainability Committee
Fabienne Nichola John McCaskill

Join Us on Zoom February 4th 6pm AEDT for the ESRAG ANZPI Monthly Chapter Meeting
<https://events.humanitix.com/anzpi>



SPEAKER | AUTHOR | CONSULTANT

Effective Storytelling and
creating video to promote
your Rotary Projects and
amplify your impact

Plus learn about RI President
Holger Knaack's launch of ESRAG's IFixThePlanet Video Challenge



**Join our Video Challenge
and make a difference**

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](#)



We're thrilled that Rotary International President Holger Knaack is teaming up with ESRAG on a video challenge to showcase the wealth of ways Rotarians are striving to save the planet.

President Holger has recorded an irresistible [video of his own](#) inviting YOU to share your project. See it and learn about how to share your contribution to the #IFixThePlanet challenge!

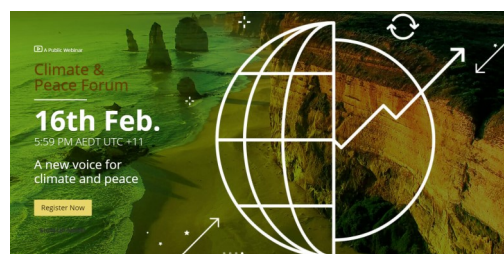
This challenge will generate a bumper crop of 70-second videos to inspire Rotarians, so we can hit the ground running all across the globe when RI's new Protecting the Environment Area of Focus goes live July 1.

You'll be able to hunt through the films to find great stories to use with your own community, club, district, or region.

So join us and create your own personal video to help repair our environment. ifixthepianet.org

<https://climateandpeace.com.au/>

**Climate strategies —
Beyond politics: Transforming US
& Australian perspectives**



With climate change mitigation a top priority for the incoming Biden Administration in the USA, the February Climate and Peace Forum brings together three internationally renowned speakers to discuss the connections between US and Australian climate policies.

1. **Michael Mann**, Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric Science at Pennsylvania State University in the US, will describe the big changes emerging in US climate policies. A climatologist and geophysicist whose research produced the "hockey stick graph" to show global warming, he shared the 2007 Nobel Prize awarded to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
2. **Maxine Burkett**, Professor of Law at the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawaii, will discuss the need to recognize climate justice and equity in all our decisions for the future.
3. **Marian Wilkinson**, an eminent, award-winning Australian journalist, will talk about America's influence on Australia's climate policies and how this might change.

Register for this free webinar here: <https://climateandpeace.com.au>

Note that the time has been set to be great for both US and Australian audiences: it will air on the evening of February 15 in US time zones and the morning of February 16. The Forums are also recorded and can be viewed at any time. Register your Club on the site to reach non-Rotarian audiences interested in sustainability.

[Clubs invitation to list - Climate & Peace Forum \(climateandpeace.com.au\)](#)

SUSTAINABLE LIVING by Peter Berg

Be a friend to the environment - it helps make the world a healthier and safer place for ourselves and future generations.

Every year thousands of tonnes of household waste is sent to landfill. This includes furniture, whitegoods, plastic, metal, glassware, toys, clothing, cans, batteries, mattresses, cleaning products, cardboard, books, paper products and importantly electronic (e-waste) items - computers, laptops, iPads, smart phones and printer ink cartridges. Many of these items contain valuable raw materials that can be preserved.

Did you know?

- ◇ Almost two thirds of landfill waste is biodegradable. This waste rots and decomposes polluting the local environment including water and soil as landfill produces harmful gases (CO₂ and Methane) which are both greenhouse gases and contribute to global warming. Methane gas is 25% more toxic than CO₂.
- ◇ Furniture, microwaves, stereos, TVs, whitegoods and mattresses that sit on the streets finish up in landfill.
- ◇ Mattresses consist of steel, wood and foam which are materials which can all be recycled.
- ◇ Metal from whitegoods can be recycled a number of times to make new products.
- ◇ E- waste leaks toxic lead and mercury emissions, polluting the environment and is the fastest growing waste stream in Australia, growing three times faster than other general waste.
- ◇ Across the globe 50 million tonnes of e-waste is produced annually – in Australia, it is 700,000 tonnes. The average Australian family generates 73 kilos of e-waste a year.
- ◇ 95% of a mobile phone can be recycled, smart phones contain gold, copper and platinum which are valuable resources to recover and reuse; yet only ten percent of mobile phones are recycled in Australia.
- ◇ It's dangerous to put hazardous waste such as batteries, motor oil, chemicals, paints, and used lighting products containing mercury including compact fluorescent lamps in kerbside recycling. Call your local council and seek advice on how to dispose of such items.
- ◇ We discard lots of batteries – it is estimated over 11,000 tonnes of batteries end up in landfill every year and currently only three percent of batteries are recycled. Batteries also contain valuable material including rare earth metals that may be recovered through recycling.



Action YOU Can Take

- ◇ Recycle and reuse household waste to keep it away from landfill.
- ◇ Limit the use of single-use and disposable products and choose alternatives which can be reused.
- ◇ Where possible, opt for products with minimal packaging.
- ◇ Keep reusable bags handy and remember to take them to the shops.
- ◇ When buying fruit and vegetables, use alternative packaging rather than plastic bags.
- ◇ Use glass jars to store food or other items.
- ◇ To reduce waste, endeavour to repair household items instead of replacing.
- ◇ Separate recyclable items in your home from general waste for placement in recycling bins.
- ◇ Recycle as much as possible, contact local councils for details of any future recycling collections and the location of council operated resource recovery centres.
- ◇ Pass on household items that are no longer required such as furniture, clothing, books, disposable crockery and glassware to family and friends or donate to local charity shops. Alternatively, try selling these items online or have a garage sale.
- ◇ Toys can be reused by passing on to friends, given to toy libraries or by creating a swap group for toys.
- ◇ A number of organisations apart from local councils will accept recycled goods such as the Metropolitan Transfer Station in the Melbourne area.
- ◇ Mobile Muster accepts old mobile phones for recycling and Soft Landing recycles unwanted used mattresses.
- ◇ Search for retail outlets that will accept old mobile phones, used batteries and printer cartridges.



Rotary Clubs play an important role in recycling equipment and goods from commercial organisations using [Rotary Donations in Kind](#) (DIK) stores. This is a major commercial recycling activity with donations received from entities such as local hospitals, hotels,



supermarkets and schools. Containers of used equipment and goods which include furniture, childrens' playgrounds, clothing, educational and medical supplies are shipped in containers to developing countries and lesser advantaged communities in Australia.



Useful Links

[War On Waste: ABC iView](#) [Sustainability Victoria](#) [Ways to reduce, reuse or recycle](#) [Council waste and recycling services](#)
[Planet Ark: Recycling near you](#) [Where to donate or recycle household items](#)

Crocs Shoes Donation December Update

As we advised before, the donation was wonderful, but logistically challenging. After completing the rough sort of the shoes, we were ready to inform the local Rotary Clubs of the opportunity. Rather than inform the 200+ Rotary Clubs in Victoria and encourage an avalanche of requests, we selected twenty Clubs who are heavily involved with community groups and who would be able to determine what type of shoes were specifically required.

Of the twenty so far fifteen Clubs have collected and distributed shoes and they have gone to around forty groups. Matching the shoes to the needs became the next challenge. Mixing the children's shoes was fairly easy, but the adults required more effort.

The needs of Fit for Work one of the groups who received the goods where they will be used to dress women who are trying to re-enter the workforce, when they go for job interviews, was very different to elderly ladies in an aged care home.

It is impractical to provide details on every donation but this report from the Rotary Club of Central Melbourne will give you an idea of where sixteen cartons of shoes went.

"We delivered shoes to :

Exodus Community West Heidelberg which supports the African families in the Housing Commission flats in West Heidelberg

Good Samaritan, East Preston supporting women and children fleeing family violence.

Trinity and St Joseph's Primary Schools North Richmond who support children in the Richmond Housing Commission flats.

We can assure you that all of the groups were very appreciative of the donations, especially at this time of year and wish to pass on their thanks to Crocs Australia and Rotary International."

Around 80% of the shoes have been distributed and we will have no problems finding a home for the others when the Store re opens in the new year.

Projects of this size require a significant amount of effort, but it was a joy for everyone involved. Victoria has just ended an extended COVID19 lockdown and for many this was a chance to work with friends while socially distancing and wearing masks.

Everyone has been feeling low and many of the groups who received the shoes have suffered greatly. Your donation showed that not only do people care for our planet, but also for people in need.

David Dippie, RC Keilor. Marketing at DiK.

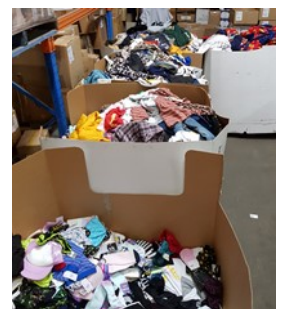


I spent most of the morning with my hands in women's underwear!

It's challenging for good corporate citizens like Big W to dispose of their surplus goods in a responsible way. When new clothing ranges are introduced some of the existing stock has to be disposed of and for business reasons they can't be given away in Australia.

This is where Rotary shines through Donations In Kind and increasingly major organizations are choosing us to donate goods to, because they can trust us to comply with their distribution requirement.

We just received a fantastic donation from Big W, seventeen large bins of mixed clothing. This covers everything that babies, children and adults' wear. All labels have to be removed and the goods sorted and packed for future projects. The number of items that fits in a carton is amazing and it costs very little to ship items that make a major difference and show people in developing countries that we care. 50 cents to fully clothe a baby, 10 cents to send a new T-Shirt.



DiK can only repurpose clothes if someone provides the money to ship them and it only costs \$25 to ship a typical carton, with your Club's name on the label. Donations can be made directly into the DiK bank account and tax deductibility may be available if required.

Helping to pack the goods could be your Clubs next Community or Environmental Sustainability Project. Subsidising the freight cost is an easy and very effective International Project.

For more information contact David Dippie marketing@rotarydik.org

PS I also packed a lot of other garments, but I could not resist the headline.