

## ESsential News March 2021

### E&S Committee:

#### Co Chairs:

Fabienne Nichola, RC Camberwell  
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Peter Berg, RC Melbourne

David Dippie, RC Keilor

Anne Frueh, RC Balwyn

Brenda Innes, RC Camberwell

Donna Martin, RC Bacchus Marsh

Lesley McCarthy, RC Flemington  
Kensington

Chris Don, former Rotarian

### Dates for your calendar:

Tuesday 6th April 2021: 6pm AEDT  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84902521635>  
Guest Speaker Rebecca St Ledger,

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

Friday 11 June 2021  
ESRAG Convention meeting  
[2021 Environmental Awareness Days of the Year](#)

#### Useful links:

[Quarterly Update of Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#)

[Reducing your transport carbon footprint](#)

[Climate Council: Transport Emissions Greenhouse Gas Emissions Growth for Road Transport in Australia](#)

[Buying an electric car or vehicle | Sustainability Victoria](#)

[Clean, green machines: the truth about electric vehicle emissions](#)

[Fight For Planet A: Our Climate](#)

Each month, we cover a diverse range of environmental topics to increase your awareness and stimulate your appetite to take up environmental projects and activities in your Club.

From the travel path of the Monarch butterflies to the launch of the second of three Powerful Pollinators planting guides, this one for Greater Melbourne West and lot of ideas of what to plant in Autumn.

We hope you select from a number of upcoming environmental events and key speakers such as the Launch of the Environment Area of Focus on Friday 4 June 2021 and the upcoming Peace and Climate Forum on 4 May 2021 (as well as recordings of past events).

Peter Berg shares his insight on Transportation and Carbon Emission and David Dippie explores the conversion of our home energy using Solar Panels. Both articles are practical ways and initiatives we can all adopt to be more sustainable.

We continue to encourage you and your club members to become ESRAG members as a means of supporting Rotary's focus on environmental sustainability.

Please send through your stories—we know every club is doing great work and we would love to share the successes and learnings with everyone.

A reminder to refer to the District 9800 Environmental Sustainability website and <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.

Don't forget to nominate your club's environmental project for the District Awards. Nominations close 26th March. [2020-2021 Club Recognition Awards | District 9800 \(rotarydistrict9800.org.au\)](#)

Guest Speaker at the next ESAG ANZPI Chapter meeting is Rebecca St Ledger, winner of the Premiers Award for Sustainability in 2020 for the War on Waste at the Queenscliff Music Festival.

[Like the ESRAG LinkedIn page](#)

[Like the ESRAG Facebook page](#)

Co-Chairs, Environmental Sustainability Committee  
Fabienne Nichola                      John McCaskill

### 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.



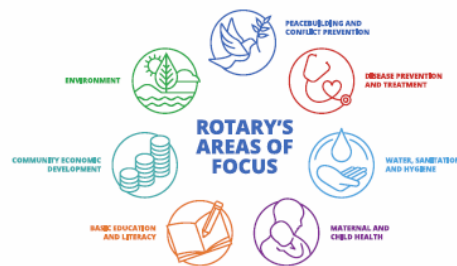
We are seeking assistance with social media and marketing for ESRAG ANZPI and the District 9800 Environment & Sustainability team.

Email [Rob](#)

### Environment News:

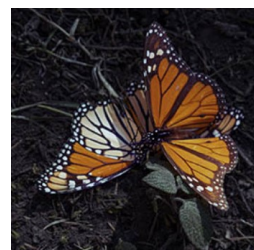
Rotary International has released an updated Visual Guidelines for the Areas of Focus, now including environment. Download at

[Asset Details | Brand Center \(rotary.org\)](#)



Every November millions of Monarch butterflies travel thousands of miles south from Canada and North east USA to the forest of oyamel firs in the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve on the border of the states of Mexico and Michoacán. The land is owned by a number of indigenous communities and is monitored by the WWF who pay the community to replant the forests.

[Watch this amazing video for more.](#)



RACV@home - [What to Plant in Autumn](#)

Powerful Pollinators has now released the latest guide: Greater Melbourne West. It joins guides for South east Melbourne, Western District, West Gippsland and Westernport, the Mallee Victoria and South East South Australia and NSW Central Slopes, Murray-Riverina and North East Victoria  
[Powerful Pollinators – The Wheen Bee Foundation](#)

### Launch of the Environment Area of Focus Friday 4 June.

This virtual event will include interviews with past Rotary International President Ian Riseley, PDG Juliet Riseley and Professor Lesley Hughes, an academic and climate scientist from Macquarie University and a welcome from Rotary International Director from Zone 8, Dr Jesse Harman. It will also showcase environmental projects across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.

Over 500 people from 31 different countries listened in real time to Past Rotary International President Ian Riseley's talk for ESRAG on 2nd March on how Environment became a Rotary Area of Focus.

[Watch the recording](#) to hear his compelling and inspiring call to action.

Do you know about the "It's Time Foundation Solar"? [Watch the video.](#)



## Transportation and Carbon Emissions by Peter Berg

Continuing the series of articles on Sustainable Living, this article looks at modes of transport that negatively impact our environment through the emission of greenhouse gases. Australians have one of the largest carbon footprints per capita in the world and transport is the third highest national emitter of carbon at 18% of total emissions, only lower than Electricity (33%) and Stationary Energy excluding Electricity (20%). Cars are responsible for roughly half of Australia's transport emissions. Taking a flight or driving alone are the most carbon-intensive options.

Transport emissions in Australia have grown more than any other sector, increasing nearly 60% since 1990. Globally, 45% of transport emissions come from road (passenger); 29% from road freight and 12% from aviation. Rail only accounts for 1% of emissions.

Australia is well behind many other global countries when it comes to tackling transport emissions which were 33% higher in 2018-19 than in 2001-02.

The reasons for Australia's poor performance include:

- Not having a national fuel efficiency standard
- Heavy car use
- High pollution cars
- Relatively high distances travelled per person by car
- Low share of trips taken by public transport

Heavier carbon emitters are large petrol and diesel vehicles with lesser amounts of emissions coming from smaller petrol, diesel, electric and hybrid cars, buses, trains and trams.

### **What Can We Do?**

Cutting transport emissions depends upon us using alternative sources of transport or lower emission modes e.g. bicycles, walking, public transport, electric and hybrid cars. Importantly, there can be wide variation in emissions depending primarily on:

- a. the length of the trip
- b. the source of electricity in the local grid
- c. the occupancy of public transport
- d. in the case of driving — vehicle and number of passengers.

### **Suggestions to reduce our transport carbon footprint:**

A great way to reduce our transport carbon footprint is to walk and cycle distances that we are comfortable with.

Use public transport - did you know that a full bus can take 40 cars off the road. Trains are nearly always the winning option over moderate-to-long distances. Buses and trams over short ones.

### **Motor Vehicles:**

Big engine cars are costly and not that efficient.

CO2 emissions will depend mainly on which vehicle you use and the number of passengers.

Emissions vary depending on the size of vehicle and the type of fuel, preferably look for a car with the best fuel economy in its class.

### **Electric Vehicles (EVs)**

Recent research from a number of global universities shows that in 95% of the world, driving an electric car is better for the climate than a petrol car. However, the carbon intensity of the local electrical grid matters. Battery electric vehicles have no exhaust emissions. Their emissions are primarily determined from the production and distribution of the energy used to charge them which could be from less environmentally friendly fossil fuels rather than from renewables.

Cost has been an issue with EVs - although costs are reducing, the range of EVs is increasing, more charging stations are developing, vehicle manufacturers are moving increasingly to the production of EVs and more countries are planning for an EV future, including Australia although some countries such as Norway have a far greater EV uptake.

In making a personal decision to move to an EV, there are some questions to consider:

- *What your needs are?* Consider how current available EV models will fit your specific purposes.
- *What your typical travel needs are?* Compare your daily commute mileage with EV battery ranges. A hybrid or electric vehicle may be appropriate if longer trips are regularly taken.
- *Finally, how easy is it to charge your EV?*

For more information go to the [Green Vehicle Guide](#)



### **Air Travel & Carbon Offsets**

If you travel from Sydney to London 4.2 tonnes of CO2 would be produced. Air travel creates a little less than 12% of global emissions and sometimes it's unavoidable. During the pandemic, interstate and international meetings have been conducted remotely, significantly reducing emissions. **Should we consider online meetings and events more often?**

Carbon offsets can be purchased when booking flights. Airlines create these offsets by planting large forests of trees to sequester carbon, restore native vegetation and wetlands and clean up waterways. Half the dry weight of a tree is carbon.



[Useful Links—See page 1 sidebar](#)

## Facts Sheet Domestic Solar Panels Victoria

The Federal and Victorian Governments are committed to increased solar electricity production in Australia and at times offer very attractive incentives to encourage home owners to install solar panels on their home. The offers tend to be in batches that relate to the capacity of industry to install them. The best procedure is to get a quote from an authorised installer, then check what rebates are available. The company providing the quote should know and will walk you through the procedure. If you have a quote you can apply for a rebate as soon as it is available.

Federal Government Rebates <https://www.energy.gov.au/rebates/renewable-power-incentives>

Victorian Government Rebate [Solar rebates | Solar Victoria](#)

Victorians are eligible to receive a solar panel (PV) rebate if they meet the following criteria:

they are the owner-occupier of the property where the system is being installed

- the combined household taxable income of all owners is less than \$180,000 per annum (based on your Australian Tax Office Notice of Assessment)
- it is an existing property, valued at under \$3 million
- the property does not have an existing solar PV system\*
- they have not already claimed a rebate as an owner-occupier under the Solar Homes Program

Getting a quote is simple and there is no need for a sales person to visit your home. Google Earth provides a photo of your roof and the company uses this to determine what can be installed. A few simple questions and they will provide a quote.

There are many independent companies offering a wide range of products and prices. Solar Quotes [www.solarquotes.com.au](http://www.solarquotes.com.au) is an independent organization that provides a lot of general information and should be able to arrange three quotes.

Many electricity companies also provide a service and your existing supplier may be able to help. The electricity companies should provide the most suitable type of system. They may be a little dearer than the cheapest price, but they will provide value for money and the peace of mind that you will receive service if there is a problem.

The company will provide an estimate of the payback time for the system. If you are eligible for both rebates the payback time is often less than four years. If this is the case you will be receiving a **25% return on your investment – on going – tax free.**

It may even be better than this, some people are eligible for an **interest free loan.**

Investing in solar power for your home could be the best investment you have ever made and at the same time you will be doing your bit to reduce carbon emissions and “Protect the Planet”

David Dippie  
Project Team Leader  
[solatube@bigpond.com](mailto:solatube@bigpond.com)

**Solar battery rebates are now available in every Victorian postcode. Solar battery rebates will maintain their current value of up to \$4,174 until 30 June 2021.**



[e-extra March 2021 | energy.gov.au](#)