



ESsential News July 2022

E&S Committee:

Co Chairs: David Dippie, RC Keilor East solatube@bigpond.com
Donna Martin, RC Bacchus Marsh dImartin260@gmail.com
Peter Berg, RC Melbourne pberg8@bigpond.net.au
Lesley McCarthy, RC Flemington Kensington Lillico2009@gmail.com
Rob Anderson, RC Canterbury
Pam Dittmer, RC South Melbourne
Fabienne Nichola, RC Camberwell
Ted Wagborne, RC Canterbury

Dates for your calendar:

National Tree Day

Sunday 31 July
Schools Tree Day Friday 29 July
<https://treeday.planetark.org/find-a-site/>

Climate and Peace Forum

Tuesday 2 August 6.00pm AEST UTC+10
<https://climateandpeace.com.au>

**Landcare Week: Celebrating
landcare diversity
1—7 August**



**Keep Australia Beautiful
15-21 August 2022**



ESRAG Oceania Chapter Meeting

Tuesday 16 August at 7.30pm AEST
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84826552900>

September

ACF Platy-Project Month of Action
<https://www.acf.org.au/platy-project>

Sunday 23 October

Rotary Clubs of Manningham
[Future Vehicle Seminar & Expo](#)

*Calendar of key environment and water
events 2022 - DCCEEW*

Join ESRAG:

<https://www.esrag.org/membership-form>
US\$30 per year or US\$125 for 5 years.



From our District Co Chairs:

David and Donna

It's a new Rotary year and we are being asked to



Imagine a world where the environment was healthy.
Where the plants, birds, insects and animals were not
under threat of habitat loss, food scarcity, water and air
pollution, plastic waste.

This is where the 7th Area of Focus - supporting the environment comes into
force and where we, as Rotarians can make a difference.

We would all be dismayed at the recent report on the state of the environment.
So what can and will you do?

David and Donna



National Tree Day Sunday 31 July

Join one of these Rotary connected tree planting events or choose another from the
[Planet Ark website](#). Wear your Rotary gear and send us your photos.

Rotary Melbourne: Friends of Dandenong Valley Parklands at Nortons Park, Wantirna South.

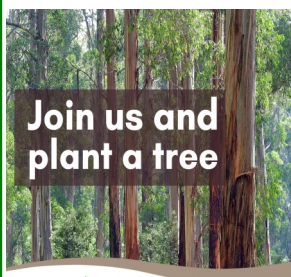
Rotary Flemington-Kensington & Keilor East: Canning Street Reserve, Avondale Heights/Maribyrnong River wildlife corridor.

Rotary Hoppers Crossing & Wyndham: Wyndham Council, Willmott Drive, Hoppers Crossing.
Hobsons Bay Council, Altona Coastal Park, Racecourse Road.

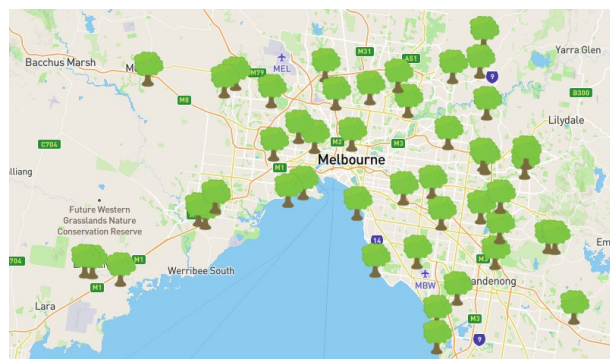
First Friends of Dandenong Creek, Norton Road, Croydon.

Monash Council and Friends of Scotchmans Creek & Valley Reserve, Clayton.

Search for a location at your postcode on the Planet Ark finder.

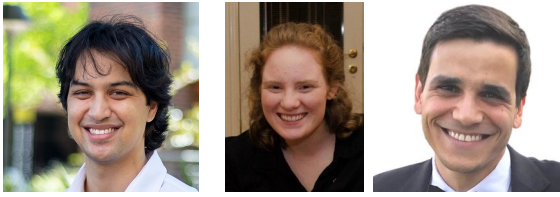


NATIONAL
TREE DAY
31 JULY



ESRAG Oceania Chapter Meeting—21 July

We heard from 3 of our younger Rotarians in Alex Jayasuria, Clare Caulfield and Leo Martinez who brought their experiences and learnings to the environment field.



Alex brought his experiences as a Global Voices Scholar invited to COP26, studying economics and finance with an interest in carbon credits at Curtin University in Perth.

Clare is former president of Rotaract Monash, a former STEM teacher, environmental ambassador with ideas to spark every club to action, and Leo is a member of Rotary Wellington working with Roger Blakely on their Climate Impact team bringing an international perspective from his experiences in Argentina and France.

[See their slidedecks here:](#)

Next meeting Tuesday 16 August. PDG David Brawn, District 9705. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84826552900>



David will speak about his experiences in developing a strong and diverse team of environment envoys. He has also developed a resource kit to help clubs establish their E&S committees and implement projects.

David has recently been elected to the Board of ESRAG, joining former ESRAG Oceania Chair Pat Armstrong. David has a Masters Degree in Environmental Science along with his BSc and MBS.

[PDG David Brawn - Supporting the Environment - YouTube](#)

ESRAG Oceania Club Carbon Calculator

Your club can offset carbon emissions from club meetings, projects, events and activities with the tool developed by a team including Rotary Melbourne's Garry Fowler.

The calculator is based on an Excel spreadsheet and asks for details on food, energy, travel, waste.

At this time, the details are then sent back to Garry who runs the calculations and advises of Co2 emissions.

Clubs then identify a carbon emission reduction plan and decide how and with what organisation to offset their emissions.

There are 4 main ways to offset carbon emissions:

Forestry and Conservation through reforestation and conservation, Renewable energy, Community projects and waste to energy. [Buying ACCUs \(cleanenergyregulator.gov.au\)](http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au)

Adopt-A-Tree is an initiative of Rotary District 9705 in NSW.

The program launched on Australia Day 2022, supported by a seeding grant from the National Australia Day Council.

This grant helped fund the setup of the project for the first 12 months.

Through applying sound management processes a surplus from the seeding grant has occurred.

Since then, 80 Rotary Clubs have joined and more than 5,000 trees have been planted.

Some clubs are Adopting-a-Tree for guest speakers, others and presenting them to schools, businesses, family and friends.

Trees are being planted in NSW in areas where regeneration is needed, specially in bushfire affected areas.

Adopters are welcome to participate in the plantings and these are advertised on the website.

[Rotary Adopt-A-Tree \(rotaryadoptatree.org.au\)](http://www.rotaryadoptatree.org.au)



- * Adoption Certificates will be sent to you by email
- * Trees will be planted in environmentally impacted areas
- * Tree plantings will be determined by experts, once the stock has been propagated after tree adoptions
- * Tree plantings will take place in the warmer months such as March/April or September/October
- * You will be notified via email when tree plantings are taking place and are invited to participate
- * Once planted you will be sent the location of your tree
- * You will receive 6 monthly updates on the growth of your trees, including photos & videos



Donate \$5.00 and Adopt-A-Tree
and watch it grow!
Receive a personalised Adoption Certificate



www.rotaryadoptatree.org.au

Introducing Riverkeepers

A Riverkeeper is voice for the conservation and protection of a river. They speak for the river; they work with the groups who care for the river, and they become the central voice for everyone who cares for the river, when dealing with Government and organizations.

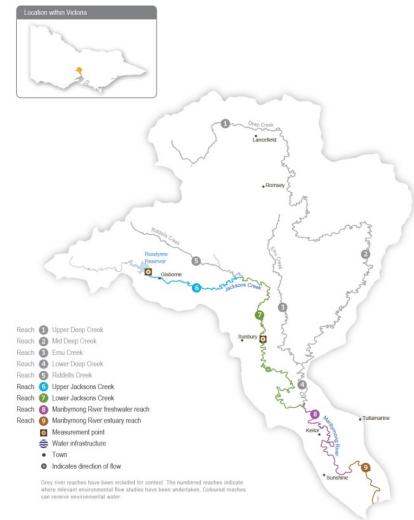
Last year, the [Yarra Riverkeeper](#), Karin Traeger spoke to ESRAG Oceania last year about her work and the volunteers who care for the Yarra. The current Yarra Riverkeeper also advocates for the Maribyrnong River. The enthusiastic Nicole Kowalczyk is the Maribyrnong Officer and she is leading a group who aim to create a new position, the Maribyrnong Riverkeeper. [Nicole Kowalczyk - Yarra Riverkeeper Association](#)



The first meeting was held on the 20th of July was well attended with representatives of support groups from the Maribyrnong and its tributaries.

From this meeting a team has been established to define the Riverkeepers role and the steps required to find candidates and to fund the position.

They have the benefit of guidance from the Yarra Riverkeeper who started in a similar way and who share common issues.



Every river system should have a River Keeper and having one for the Maribyrnong will greatly increase our ability to lobby for protection and restoration of all Victorian Rivers.

John Forrester is the Werribee Riverkeeper. [Werribee Riverkeeper - Werribee River Association](#)

The Rotary Clubs in Districts 9790 and 9800 can play a significant role in establishing this new position. It will happen with strong community support and local Rotary Clubs should become advocates and encourage community support.

The next meeting is planned for October. If you would like more information or an invitation to the meeting, please contact me. solatube@bigpond.com

September is Platypus-Project Month of Action for the Australian Conservation Foundation

Citizen Science in action:

What: Surveying platypuses as part of the Platypus-Project Month of Action

It's called the [Platypus-Project Month of Action](#). In the month of September, we're trying to get as many people as we can to head down to their local creek or river, find a quiet place on the bank, try to spot a platypus and record what they see (or don't see).

How does this help the platypus?

Even though the platypus is one of our most unique and iconic animals, there are big gaps in our knowledge about the creature, including where it lives and how big platypus populations are.

With platypus numbers declining, the lack of existing platypus data is a huge barrier to getting the protection it needs from extinction. ACF has been working with researchers at the University of NSW to try and fill this data gap along the east coast of Australia, but we really need help from lots of people in the community.

If you're interested

Could our district be involved by doing some platypus surveying events sometime in September? Surveying can also be done individually or in a small group. ACF have developed easy to use toolkits and an interactive map to make the process really simple. Not only would it be helping nature, but it's an easy, and relaxing activity that can bring the community together. You can check out more about the Platypus-Project here, <https://www.acf.org.au/platypus-project>

Please contact David Dippie if you are interested in being involved in this project.

Rotary Club of Melbourne's Environment Sustainability Waste lunch event:

Rotary Melbourne launched its first annual '**World Environment Day**' on June 2nd with partners City of Melbourne, and Sofitel Melbourne on Collins with all the profits from the lunch going to SecondBite.

SecondBite is a charity that repurposes food from grocery stores and restaurants that is still edible and redistributes it to people in need, free of charge. This saves tonnes of food going unnecessarily to landfill.

For food that is no longer edible, SecondBite works with other organisations to repurpose food waste for compost and fertilising purposes. In addition to supporting the work of SecondBite, Rotary Club awarded the second annual 'Environmental Sustainability' award which is conferred to an entrepreneur who has made sustainable development a cornerstone of their emerging business.

Last year's winner was 'Sweet Justice', an enterprise that trains young people in the prison system to become expert bee keepers who can assist the agriculture industry.

This year's winner is Bardee, which uses protein from soldier flies to create high quality products to feed livestock. The soldier flies feed off decomposing food, and remove multiple tonnes of food waste from going to landfill.

On the day a commendation award was presented to Manon Beauchamp-Tardieu, Managing Director, Little Green Panda.

The menu for the luncheon was devised by Sofitel Melbourne's chef, in consultation with Matt Preston. The meal was carbon offset with a donation made to a forest project in Timor Leste.



Rotary Melbourne's World Environment Day Event Panel featured; Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Professor John Thwaites, food critic Matt Preston, United African Farm's Abiola Ajetomobi, and SecondBite's Steve Clifford.

Rotary Melbourne is the first Rotary Club established in Australia with a proud one-hundred and one year history.

Rotary Melbourne is dedicated to all aspects of the Rotary mission, the World Environment Day luncheon

highlights its commitments to the seventh pillar of Rotary: care for the environment.

Ultimately, care for the environment underpins the achievement of Rotary's humanitarian purposes in Australia and around the world.

This event was organised by a team including the District Environment team's Peter Berg.

The carbon offsets were calculated using the ESRAG Oceania Club Carbon Calculator tool, which Rotary Melbourne's Garry Fowler helped to develop.

Your club can also offset carbon emissions from club meetings, events, projects and conferences.

[Read more](#)

[Club Carbon Calculator tools](#)

State of the Environment Report 2021

[Australia state of the environment 2021](#) This report is conducted every 5 years.

The general outlook for the environment is deteriorating.

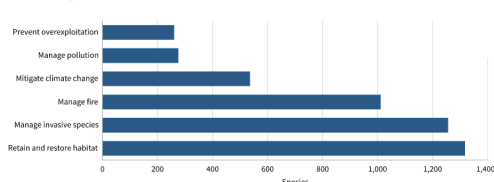
Overall, the state and trend of the environment of Australia are poor and deteriorating as a result of increasing pressures from climate change, habitat loss, invasive species, pollution and resource extraction. Changing environmental conditions mean that many species and ecosystems are increasingly threatened. Multiple pressures create cumulative impacts that amplify threats to our environment, and abrupt changes in ecological systems have been recorded in the past 5 years. While the *threatened Species Strategy action plan* achieved partial success; 21 priority species to have their trajectory improved by 2020, many did not show improvements and, overall, the number of listed species has grown by 8% since 2016. The number of listed entities will increase substantially in coming years as a result of the 2019–20 bushfires. Every category except urban environments has deteriorated since the last report was published in 2016.

Climate change affects every aspect of our environment. Temperature, extreme events and fire risk are increasing, sea levels are rising and rainfall patterns are changing across Australia. Our health, living standards, cultural and spiritual fulfilment, and connection to Country are all interconnected and are negatively impacted by our deteriorating environment. Quality, affordable food is one of the key material contributions of nature to people, however, the competition for land area in Australia caused by urban sprawl, combined with the impacts of climate change, are putting increasing pressure on fresh food provision and security.

Australia's high levels of food production through agriculture, for both local and overseas consumption, result in high pressures on our environment from land clearing, grazing, cropping and water use for irrigation. Hence our native vegetation, soil and carbon stocks in intensive land-use zones are in poor condition and deteriorating.

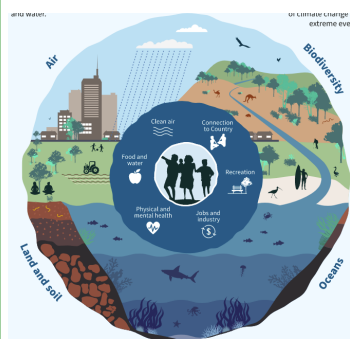
Climate change impacts are increasingly affecting human wellbeing; marginalised individuals and communities are at greater risk. Extreme events such as tropical cyclones, hailstorms, flooding rains, storm tides, heatwaves, bushfires and blizzards have always been part of Australia's climate, but increasing intensity and frequency of these events are impacting more heavily on human wellbeing.

Figure 24 Number of Australian threatened species that would benefit from different management responses



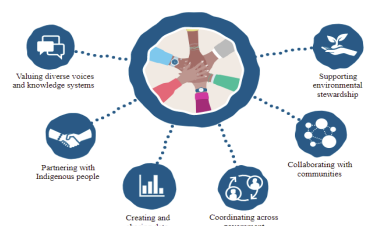
In the biodiversity chapter, most indicators of the state and trend of plants and animals show decline, and the number of terrestrial and marine threatened species has risen. We can expect further extinctions of Australian species over the next 2 decades unless current management effort and investment are substantially increased. Conservation actions are linked to reduced rates of decline for threatened Australian plants, mammals and birds, but they have not been sufficient to reverse declines overall.

Immediate action with innovative management and collaboration could turn the direction around.



Indigenous knowledge and connection to country are vital for sustainability and healing Australia.

Innovative management and collaboration among all Australians can turn things around.



[Australian Academy of Science report.](#)

[CSIRO expert commentary](#)

[ABC report](#)

[From the Australian Conservation Foundation:](#)

- * Australia has lost more mammal species than any other continent and continues to have one of the highest rates of species decline among countries in the OECD. The number of new species listed or listed in a higher category of threat has grown by 8% since 2016 and will increase substantially in coming years because of the 2019–20 bushfires.
- * Australia now has more foreign plant species than native
- * The true number of extinctions is likely to be significantly higher because many species are poorly surveyed or poorly described, or both.

Wyndham Rotary and the Werribee River Association

Wyndham Rotary and the Werribee River Association have joined forces to help improve the amenity and sustainability of the Werribee River eco-systems.

Werribee Riverkeeper, John Forrester, said after the recent grass planting day at the Werribee River Park: "Thank-you for your amazing support Wyndham Rotary".

The Werribee Riverkeeper, John Forrester, a former member of Wyndham Rotary, is a passionate advocate for the Werribee River, environment and sustainability and the local City of Wyndham community. John has been the Werribee Riverkeeper since 2014. John says that there are four active Australian Waterkeepers: the Port Phillip Baykeeper and the Upper Hunter, Werribee and the Yarra Riverkeepers. They work together to investigate how waterway protectors can be most effective in the Australian context.

When Wyndham Rotary formed our Environment committee in 2020, we approached John on how we could help with looking after the Werribee river and its surrounds. John was very welcoming and was delighted with the offer of support.

This project suggestion was one of the first raised in our committee discussions, as we run our major fundraiser:



The Werribee River is the meeting place and country of the Wathaurong and Wurundjeri Traditional Owners.



The Werribee Riverkeeper John Forrester alongside Superman, alias Lachlan Willson (Wyndham Rotary) on a riverside clean-up.



Gary and MaryAnne (Wyndham Rotary members) planting sedges and grasses beside the Werribee river.

The Wyndham Rotary Fun Run, along the banks of the Werribee river. John was very helpful and in February 2021 we did our first clean up along the riverbank in conjunction with the Werribee River Association.

Since this first clean-up, COVID intervened and as with all of us, we were not able to physically do any joint projects. Now in 2022 we are making up for lost time. In April and May, Wyndham Rotary again joined forces with the Werribee River Association to plant over 1000 plants along the Werribee riverbank.

This is part of the ongoing cooperation between our two organisations to provide greater natural plantings along the river's edge and to provide a greater amenity for the local community. Monthly joint activities with the Werribee River Association are planned. These will be clean up days or tree/grass plantings.

The club has also produced a monthly environmental events calendar so members can choose to participate in one of many ways. Most of these events are coordinated by the Werribee River Association or local "Love our Street" committees. Not only were these days environmentally beneficial to the community but we also increased Wyndham Rotary's exposure to the community.

We have potentially added two new members to the Rotary fold as a result of interactions at these joint events. We intend to encourage our local Interact and Earlyact clubs to also become active in these outings.

We see this as a great way to increase Rotary's exposure whilst helping the environment. What better way to help the next generations understand the value of keeping our planet healthy. Together we can do so much more!

Gary Willson: garywillson@hotmail.com



Celebrate Landcare Week!

Get ready for Landcare Week (August 1- 7), where this year we are celebrating the diversity of landcare people and projects across Australia!



Together, we'll be commemorating our great landcare achievements, including how landcare brings all of us together – landcare volunteers, landcare groups and other environmental community groups, Traditional Owners and First Nations organisations, farmers and landholders, youth groups, Landcare facilitators and coordinators, government agencies, researchers and academics.

We know that many of us have been struggling through drought, bushfires and floods, making landcare more important than ever. So this Landcare Week, let's stand united, support one another and encourage others to join our incredible movement that benefits our environment, the landscape and biodiversity, our communities and our own wellbeing.

[Find your local LandCare group here.](#)

Every day, there are people actively caring for their local environment in so many ways.


1. Plant native trees, shrubs and grasses to create habitat for native animals to improve biodiversity
2. Landholders and farmers care for the soils on their property to help prevent salinity and erosion
3. Use energy and water-usage efficiencies, such as farming effluent recycling, sediment control and solar panel installation
4. Get the community involved in restoring and protecting the local environment in their community, with planting days, weed & rubbish removal, installing bird nesting boxes and so much more.
5. Organise volunteers in the community to come together and help resolve local environmental issues – and work in partnership with local councils, natural resource management agencies, farming groups, business and industry and researchers
6. Design and lead adventurous Intrepid Landcare projects which enable young people to connect to their community, nature and each other, while taking action for the environment
7. Care for our rivers and waterways, this helps keep our beaches and oceans clean, and protects marine animals from the impact of rubbish including plastics
8. Mitigate climate change by protecting and stabilising beaches and sand dunes, this work helps to protect our fragile coasts
9. Consult Traditional Owners about local land management and decision making, they are the original landcarers and have been caring for our natural environment for thousands of years and continue to do so with Landcare activities like cultural burns
10. Save the habitat of native animals and birdlife by constructing and installing nest boxes
11. Make 'bug hotels' to encourage bees and insects to pollinate gardens
12. Teach children and young people about where our food comes from and how farmers care for their land, water and biodiversity on their property
13. Connect urban and rural communities to bridge the city-country divide
14. Support the habitat of threatened species like the koala, platypus and native birds, from the impact of urban development and climate change.
15. Monitor the impacts of climate change by working with community volunteers to monitor the changes in the habitats of fauna and flora and provide research data to universities and research agencies
16. Rehabilitate degraded landscapes by planting trees to act as shelter for livestock and help support the growth of native grasses
17. Manage invasive pests like feral pigs, foxes, deer and other animals that destroy the landscape and kill native animals
18. Actively promote to local councils how they can help the local community to have more open green spaces and they support to care for parks and urban bushland
19. Host education programs and workshops to share knowledge, Landcare is about lifelong learning and connection to place
20. Manage community native plant nurseries and educates the general public about the value of local indigenous plant species
21. Build fences to protect vegetation, livestock and keep out feral pests
22. Host volunteer groups on their land to help with planting projects – what landcare volunteers can do in a weekend can take a farmer or landholder a year to do themselves
23. Waste and litter removal from bushland, wetlands, waterways and coastlines
24. Increase awareness of the importance of environmental issues that impact our daily lives, from a local to international scale
25. Working to care for the environment has a positive impact on the mental and physical health of individuals and the wellbeing of communities.
26. Bring people together from all walks of life to do something good for the environment.




2 August
6.00 PM AEST UTC +10

**Join the switch -
Becoming
a net zero
community**

Speakers:



Saul Griffith
Is an inventor, author, and founder of multiple companies and nonprofits. Having led projects for agencies including NASA, DARPA, National Science Foundation and more. In 2007 he was awarded a Macarthur Fellowship, the so-called 'Genius Grant', for inventions in the service of humanity. Saul is the founder and chief scientist of Rewiring Australia. Saul will discuss how electrifying our cars and homes is the concrete action Australians can make this decade to lead the world in decarbonisation and his vision for how we're going to get it done.



Taryn Lane
Is a 2016 Churchill Fellow, and a 2021 inductee to the Victorian Women's Honour Roll. She manages Australia's first community-owned cooperative wind farm, Hepburn Energy located at Leonards Hill south of Daylesford in Victoria. The 4.1 megawatt wind farm hosts two turbines, that produce enough clean energy to power more than 2200 homes. It is a local pioneer of the community energy movement. Taryn will share her experience of working with communities for clean energy.

→ **Date: 2 August | 6:00 PM AEST UTC +10**
Presented by the **Rotary Clubs of Sydney.**

Reducing bin contamination:

Did you know that almost all the contamination in our recycling bins is made up of just 5 items?

Here are some simple tips to help:

1. **Food:** food and drinks are the biggest contaminants in recycling bins. The best thing to do is clean out any leftovers or dregs from containers before placing them in the bin. Food is usually accepted in your council organics bin—check with your council. Or give food another life as compost where appropriate.
2. **Clothes:** clothing and textiles are a big part of our recycling contamination. The fabrics become caught and wrapped up in the machines at the sorting facility. Old clothing, shoes and toys should be donated and re-used.
3. **E-Waste:** E-waste such as broken devices, computers, batteries cannot go in the recycling bin. They can be dangerous if damaged leaking chemicals not the ground. Small items like batteries and phones can be dropped off at council drop off sites, OfficeWorks, Battery World and ALDI stores amongst others.
4. **Plastic bags:** Soft plastics and wrappers cannot go in the recycling bin. A general rule is if you can scrunch it up in your hand it does not go in the recycling bin. Take these items to the REDCycle drop off at your local supermarket.
5. **Bagged recycling:** Don't bag your recyclables. Put them loosely in the bin. Only loose items can be sorted and recycled properly.

PlanetArk

