

SustainAbility News October 2024

Coming Events:

October is Economic and community development month in Rotary.

Also:

[End Polio month](#)

[Lift the Lid month](#)

29 September

Daylight Savings begins in New Zealand



6 October

Daylight Savings begins in the ACT, New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, and Victoria

7 October

World Habitat Day

Tuesday 15 October

Guest Speaker

Andrew Mahar AM, CEO
 The Expand Foundation

[ZOOM link](#)

16 October

World Food Day

Thursday 21 November

Guest Speaker Sarah Winkler
 The Everyday Recycler

From our Chair, Colin Scobie

ESRAG Oceania Chair 2024-2025

Another busy month across the Region - so many projects and from these projects "big things grow".

If you have a project in mind please email me with your plan. All these suggestions can be considered, and if you have an idea and are not sure on how to get started - then send me a note via this link.



Last month's speaker - Dr Michael Chew on the subject of "Participatory Action Research" was inspiring about how photovoice can be adapted to visualise and influence environmental behaviour and change. There were many takeaway messages that can be utilised and be applied around writing for grants that include partnerships for your next environmental project.

I was one of those that included some ideas from Michael's presentation in my recent grant application. We will see how that grant turns out.

I am off to visit the Solomon Islands soon with a kit full of vital signs diagnostic equipment to be donated to Gizo Hospital.

The funds for this kit of equipment came from a Rotary District 9620 Foundation Grant.



We would like to get a measure of the number of volunteer hours you are putting into ESRAG and environmental related projects over the last couple of months. This does not have to be accurate to the minute, and a guess would be good start - Just email me your number of hours to colin.scobie@esrag.org

Great to chat to you all last month, and I look forward to seeing you for our October meeting where our guest speaker is Dr Andrew Maher, AM. Andrew will speak to us about his project in Timor Leste: [With One Seed](#).

Colin

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 Rotary Club of Redcliffe Sunrise
 District 9620
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Join ESRAG:
 Just US\$30 per year.
 Rotaractors \$15



Looking for a previous meeting recording? [LINK](#)



Listen to the ESRAG Climate conversations podcasts.

<https://esragpodcast.podbean.com/>

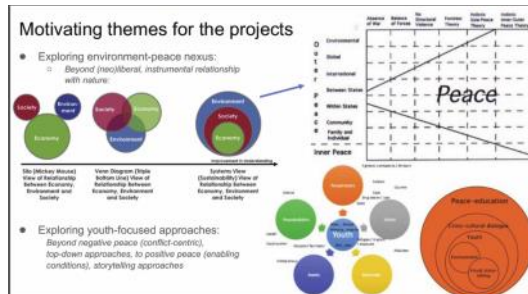


Previous Chapter Meeting—Thursday 18 September [Meeting recording.](#)

Guest Speaker: Dr Michael Chew, Director, Ecolmagin Consultancy and Coaching, Rotary Peace Fellow - Chulalongkorn University PhD (Photovoice / global environmental behaviour) - Monash University

Michael spoke to us from Bali, with a poor wifi unfortunately. [View Michael's presentation here.](#)

Michael has 3 points of focus— cross cultural engagement, environmental behaviour change and participatory and creative methods. Using participatory visual approaches to inspiring environmental behaviour change he focussed on 3 studies in Bangladesh, China and Australia with a focus question: **How can photovoice be adapted to visualise and influence environmental engagement across multiple sites?**



We heard some very good ideas on how to include photos and visual voice in our work and as Colin has said, in grant applications.

Michael has a focus on positive peace based on his time spent at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand where he he was a Rotary Peace Fellow.

<https://www.ecolmagin.org/research/> <https://storiesoaction.org/> <https://www.positivepeace.academy/activators>

Tuesday 15th October **Andrew Mahar AM CEO, the Expand Foundation**

<https://xpand.net.au/activities/with-one-seed/>

Andrew is the co-founder and project director of With One Seed. He has been involved in creating social enterprises for 25 years and in Timor for 10 years and has provided advice and guidance to community sector organisations, government at all levels and the private sector.

WithOneSeed is the first Gold Standard verified carbon forestry program in Timor Leste. They work with subsistence farmers to replant the forests. creating a carbon store to build local economies and deliver education and training in agroforestry and permaculture.

By the end of 2023, the project had more than 405,000 trees growing with 1500 farmers. The farmers are paid to maintain the trees contributing to the economy.



Thursday 21 November: Guest speaker Sarah Winkler, the everyday recycler.

<https://everydayrecycler.com/about/>

An everyday recycler is someone for whom recycling is just part of their everyday life. It doesn't mean they know how to recycle everything, it means they believe in making a difference through recycling and are focused on achieving that goal.

They make an effort to include recycling in their everyday routine: checking the rules of what goes in for their local area, recycle a particular type of material or maybe considering whether an item is recyclable when they make a purchase.

Although few of us recycle perfectly every day, we can all continue to improve our efforts and make a bigger difference. So how can you become an Everyday Recycler?



Focus on New Zealand ...

[Rotary Hutt Valley, District 9940](#), had a few hardy members out in the weather planting additional trees alongside Te Awa Kairangi /Hutt River.



Rotary Downtown Auckland have continued their efforts at Clevedon to help Remuera Intermediate plant out the seedlings they have nurtured over the last 12 months. Working with Trees for Survival, the club and its members contribute to multiple planting days each year. Thanks to the Environmental Team of Dan, Simon, Elaine and Mark
Trees for Survival is a charitable trust that works with 150 schools and local communities across New Zealand to grow and plant native trees along waterways and on erosion prone hillsides. <https://www.tfsnz.org.nz>



PDG Peter Garnett and the **Rotary Clubs of District 9910** have celebrated the opening of a Healing Garden at Auckland's North Shore hospital. The garden, a 110 square metre indoor space envisioned by the Well Foundation was opened on 30 June 2024: Matariki is about new beginnings and this garden is the first of its kind in Australasia.

Led by Peter, who has also recently been a patient and so appreciated the garden, most Rotary clubs in District 9910 have contributed \$100,000 towards this legacy project (which has a total value of more than \$2 million).

This beautiful, peaceful, thoughtfully created space will be used by patients, visitors and staff, contributing significantly to better patient outcomes, faster healing and less anxiety for the people of the North Shore of Auckland plus regional referrals from further away. The Healing Garden will serve the community for generations to come ...

[READ MORE 1](#)

[READ MORE 2](#)



The Rotary Club of North Shore District 9910, called on their friends from Rangitoto College and Tauhinu Sea Scouts to help us clean up the Albany Lakes area where there was a lot of rubbish entering the local waterways. 6 of the Rotary Youth Exchange Students helping out too. Of course, there was the mandatory sausage sizzle for all!



Rotary Club of Canberra, District 9705 were at Weston Park English Garden in Yarralumla on 15 September. Their task was to remove the masses of invasive ivy. Last Autumn they planted some bulbs which had started to break through. They also discovered a bright crimson rhododendron.

The Club also runs tours of Weston Park English Garden Yarralumla on weekends in October and November. This is a huge fillip for Rotary on an environmental basis as the site is perhaps one of the most significant environment heritage sites in Canberra.



In other words, Rotary will have an outdoor focal location, based on the environmental themes. They showcase to schools, community groups and visitors from across Australia.

[Read more about the garden and the connection with Canberra Rotary.](#)



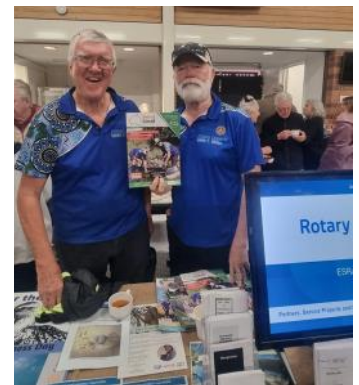
The Rotary Club of Pambula, District 9705 have continued their work on the highway roundabout garden. On a glorious Spring morning they did lots of new planting. The garden beds are looking awesome!



ESRAG Morton Bay was pleased to attend and display an array of features associated with aspects of the environment at the Bribie Island Nature Festival in cooperation with BIEPA. A great series of EcoFlix was on screen today for the audience. See our own Colin Scobie —>



<https://www.biepa.online/event-details/yarun-ecoflix>



Thanks to Moreton Daily for the writeup on this and a host of other upcoming events.. <https://www.moretondaily.com.au/.../festival-to-showcase...>

Our very busy chair, Colin Scobie has been out again, this time visiting the [Farmers for Climate Action](#) (FCA) Forum at Qld Parliament house in Brisbane, Queensland.

He reports that the European and Japanese markets are on a journey to include UN SDG sustainability in their supply chain. This impacts a wide range of industries including, for example, the sugar supply chain. Sustainable fertiliser from the likes of PacificBio to create a circular economy.

He also met up with Tony Perrett, the Queensland Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.



ESRAG Oceania executive Rob Anderson continues his efforts on food waste and climate action. He recently presented at the Victorian Food Waste Action Summit.

Policy levers such as mandatory food waste reporting are among the topics that were explored at our Victorian Food Waste Action Summit.

<https://foodwaste.climateers.com/>



Contact Rob if you are interested in exploring this area further.

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E: rob.anderson@esrag.org



Join the ESRAG 15 day [Plant Rich Diet Challenge](#)

ESRAG is challenging clubs, districts, and individuals to try out and take the 15-day Plant-Rich Diet Challenge. Our doctors tell us that eating diets rich in fruits, vegetables, legumes, whole grains, nuts, and seeds is essential to good health. It's also good for our economy (lower diet-related health care costs) and our planet's health.

Thanks to the Rotary Club of Redcliffe Sunrise for these event notifications.



To celebrate **World Migratory Bird Day** and Welcome Back the legendary Shorebirds that come to feed on the mudflats at Toondah Harbour this time every year. The focus this year will be all about PROTECT INSECTS; PROTECT BIRDS.

https://www.acf.org.au/welcome_back_shorebirds_-_protect_insects_protect_birds

Bribie Island Nature Festival:
with the Rotary Club of Bribie Island.



Get ready! **The Aussie Bird Count is back from October 14–20, 2024!** Now in its eleventh year, the [Aussie Bird Count](#) is one of Australia's biggest and most beloved citizen science events – and we would love for you to take part.

Join tens of thousands of Australians of – all ages and experiences – in heading outdoors and having fun getting to know your local birds, while helping BirdLife Australia collect information about the birds around us. [Register here](#)



Our team:

Chair—Colin Scobie, Rotary Club of Redcliffe Sunrise, District 9620
Rob Anderson, Rotary Club of Canterbury, District 9800
PDG David Brawn, Rotary Club of Berry District 9705
Pam Dittmer, Rotary Club of Melbourne South, District 9800
Faye Kirkwood, Rotary Club of Caulfield, District 9800
Lesley McCarthy, Rotary Club of Flemington-Kensington
Barbara Sheehan, Rotary Club of Highton, District 9780

Pat Armstrong, Rotary Club of Doncaster, District 9810
Ian Dempsey, Rotary Club of Mitchell South, District
Rob Edwards, Rotary Club of Corrimal, District 9675
PDG Elaine Mead, Rotary Club of Westhaven, District 9910
Thelma Raman, Rotary Club of Sydney, District 9675
Ted Waghome, Rotary Club of Canterbury, District 9800

Links and further resources: *Environment Days:*

UN International Days

Find more NZ

- 4 October World Animal Day
- 7 October World Habitat Day
- 8-10 October Global Nature Positive Summit in Sydney [Global Nature Positive Summit - DCCEEW](#)
- 15 October Global Handwashing Day [WASHRAG](#)
- 16 October [World Food Day](#)
- 18 –24 November [Antimicrobial resistance week](#)
- 26 November [Sustainable Transport Day](#)



The Rotary Clubs of Brighton North and Kew, District 9800. Featuring 15 magical gardens across Victoria. [READ MORE.](#)

Understanding time zones:

UTC = GMT: Coordinated Universal Time or Greenwich Mean Time

AEDT = DST: Australian Eastern Daylight Time is UTC +11

AEST: Winter // non Daylight Savings Time | UTC +10

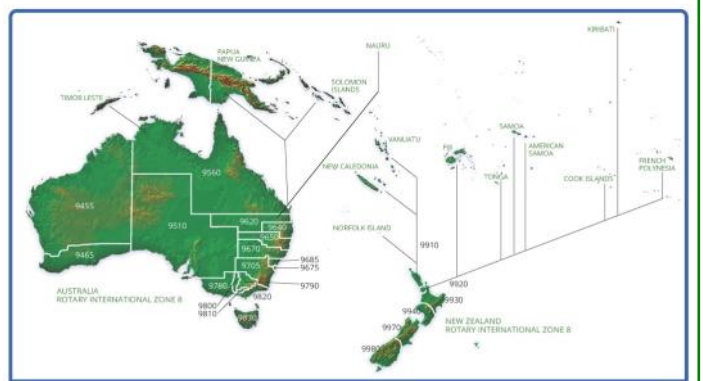
PST: Pacific Standard Time UTC -8

NZDT_DST: New Zealand and Pacific is UTC +13

www.timeanddate.com/time/map/



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I am a proud ESRAG member. Join me?

