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Special meeting to celebrate International Women's day March 9, 2021 meeting

Peter Baker introduced Cathy Nicou as the Chair for the evening

Cathy Nicou shared two occasion specific acknowledgements.

'We take the opportunity to Acknowledge the Strength, courage and resilience shown by women in taking on challenges at all levels to make the world more equitable and humane for all genders and sexualities in current generations and generations to come.

I would further like to acknowledge the compounded challenges faced by women of colour, women with disabilities, queer+ and transgender women, and that we all need to stand in partnership.

Guests to this special meeting were welcomed. The welcome to partners of Club members comprised Cindy Abbey, Jane Odgers, Kerry Roe, Sana Halaseh, Vic Abfaltar, and Eleanor de Fazio. Potential new members Irene Stokes, Luke Docking and Terry Stavello (please excuse any mis spellings) were welcomed.

President David touched on the bee keeping project and thanked Michael Portelli for his hard work and energy.

A thank you was also offered to Alistair Fraser and his small team for a very successful start of new year celebration on February 26 at the Moonee Valley City Council premises. Over \$10,000 was raised and Paul McDonald's skills as MC and auctioneer were commended.

Peter Baker shared great family news as he announced the arrival of his newest granddaughter on Sunday March 7.

RCE has just been involved in the four hundred and nineteenth Royce Abbey award.

The Annual Art Show will happen on 14-15 May and planning is underway.

A BBQ will take place on March 30, 2021 at the Royal Victorian Motor Yacht Club. More details are provided later in the Contact,

Long standing member Norm Mollica is on the mend and thanked every for their phone calls and good wishes. Norm assured us that he is better and ready for action.

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Rotary
Club of Essendon

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International Women's day speakers

Kunal Mutreja, one of our newer (and younger) members did a sterling job of navigating us through the electronic interfaces involved in presenting such a digital form of multiple speaker communication.

The featured speakers were:

- Philip Archer – District Governor 9800
- Sally Capp -Lord Mayer of Melbourne
- Colin Carter - Business Leader
- Dr. Dean Freestone - CEO and Founder of Seer
- Jennifer Jones - RI President-2022-23
- Megan Clark - Australian Space Agency
- Deborah Richardson – Ryman Health Care
- Ian Hamm- Community Broadcasting Foundation
- Adrian Nelson MC - Rotary Club of Melbourne
- Jacinda Adern- NZ Prime Minister (concluding comments)

DG Archer welcomed us to the tenth anniversary of this International Women's day event. A new theme for this year's event is a bold new world, given the far-reaching impacts of COVID 19 on all aspects of life.

Jennifer Jones the Rotary International President Elect for 2022-23 firstly noted that we have learnt a lot of lessons form COVID including the need for adaptability and flexibility. Secondly, we need to continue to effectively harvest electronic connectivity since younger generations in particular stay in touch and interact this way. We also need to look at the bigger picture rather than focusing on very specific issues and challenges. Finally, we need to be prepared for change and to learn from others' efforts, especially from the young.

Sally Capp, the Lord Mayer of Melbourne, commented that the City of Melbourne is delighted to be involved with Rotary in this event. On a positive note, the year of 2020 showed how we can act and respond collectively, rather than as self-seeking individuals. Lord Mayor Capp also noted that it resulted in a sense of seeing the advantage of bringing agenda together and leveraging these combined agenda. This practice she feels will continue into the future. Lord Mayor Capp concluded by noting that we do not often get these moments to reflect and reset our agenda.

Dr. Dean Freestone, CEO and Founder of Seer, was asked by the interviewer, Ian Hamm, what operating in the COVID 2020 environment was like for a start-up company. Dean replied that it put a lot of extra pressure and uncertainty into the new business and its people. One of the most stressful aspects was dealing with the health effects COVID had on people, both internally and outside the organization. Dean noted that Seer tries to help people to put family first and to pursue work-life balance.



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On the positive side, Dean Freestone from Seer remarked that questioning things and putting issues on the table or consideration and resolution are positive aspects of this tumultuous year. Dean's last comment was that while he has actively pursued the use of new technology in business, he considers face-to-face, personal conversations as still especially important.

Megan Clark from the Australian Space Agency (ASA) noted with justifiable pride that NASA has recognised ASA as the best team it has ever worked with. One of the keys to such peer acknowledgement and praise Megan observes is not to limit your vision. Perhaps because of these two aspects, ASA has been provided by the Federal Government with \$AU150 million to enable it to substantially contribute to current international space projects, including the continuing exploration of Mars and the second personned lunar landing.

Deborah Richardson of Ryman Health Care also noted that the health of staff is vital.

Colin Carter, a business leader, noted that women are as good leaders as men are. Colin does not think that the definition of a good leader, or the abilities, skills, knowledge and attitudes have changed. He specifies flexibility, adaptability and good communication skills as being equally important. Clearly women possess these skills more so, it is demonstrable, than men.

Jacinta Arden, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, finished of the video with three telling and relevant comments. Firstly, that women have been disproportionately affected by the Covid pandemic. To offset this the New Zealand government is making sure that barriers have been removed and that relevant training is provided. Finally, Prime Minister Adern stresses that women should not put limitations on their lives because of their gender. On a personal note, Jacinta declared that she did not want her daughter to be restricted in this way, or to feel so constrained.

President David Abbey finished the meeting by thanking Peter Baker for his meeting contributions, and for everyone who attended and participated in a successful club meeting.

Roger Leask draws our attention to this link on 'Welcome to the Wonderful world of women'.

Roger recommends that you Turn on your speakers and click on this link. The editor takes no responsibility for any shock or dismay or consternation or offence caused by so doing!

<https://youtu.be/iDa9HbyNkIk>

Upcoming events



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- **Royal Victorian Motor Yacht Club Williamstown - BBQ**

Mar 30, 2021 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

This is an opportunity to visit one of the most exclusive yacht clubs of Melbourne, courtesy of RVMYC and RCE member Stephen Chandler and Pam Chandler

The RVMYC is situated at Nelson Place, Williamstown and offers some of the best views of Melbourne. Take in the views of Melbourne's skyline whilst enjoying a BBQ and the company of your Rotarian friends.

Those attending will be contacted about bringing a share plate, be it a salad, starter or dessert. BYO drinks, cutlery and crockery. Meat will be supplied and covered by the charge of \$20.00 per person.

Limit 30 people

Bookings will close on 23 March or when we reach 30 registrations.



- **Movie at Sun Cinema Yarraville – April 14**

More details to follow.

- **Club Lunch Meeting - Diego Corbalan – April 20**

Manager Offender Services, Metropolitan Remand Centre
More details to follow.



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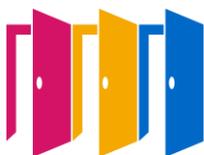
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