

C O N T A C T

Evening meeting 3 August 2022

Past President Maria Kouppas invited Past President and long serving Club Secretary Stephen Roe to fill in for President Vera Maljevac who is unwell, as is Vice President Shirly Kukk.

Fortunately Nola Spicer is recovering well, and was able to attend the meeting.

A number of guests were welcomed to the meeting. Anne Ada and Ian Ada, a past Director General of District 9800 . Liz and Neville Balfour, Andrea Cjuk from the Australian Federation of Ukranian Organisations; John Kouppas, Paul Lechey, Steve Newbury, Damian Nippard, Jane Odgers, Gwen Tepper and Janet Thomas. There were at least two other attendees representing the Ukranian community, but the note taker was not quick enough to capture their names.



Andrea Cjuk followed with a lively and appreciative talk. She thanked very much RCE for its on-going support and friendship of the Ukranian community and its representation Association. Andrea personally thanked Michael Cariss for all his transportation efforts.

Andrea acknowledged that DIK has also been generous in terms of providing a freezer and fridge, along with other goods.

The trip to Healesville Sanctuary was very well received as it gave a real break from the very difficult and unfamiliar living conditions under

Andrea flagged a couple of ways that our Club and others can help moving forward. One is organising more outings like the Healesville one. Another is by providing basic safety and driving lessons. Providing Christmas gifts is also sure to help to lift the spirits of those who are a very very long way from their homes and family and friends.

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Update on Board meeting

Acting President Stephen provided a review of the discussions and decisions of the latest Board meeting. The first point raised is a potential re-invigoration of the Hire a Rotarian scheme that first appeared several years ago under Roger Leask's support.

The second point raised by Acting President Stephen Roe is that the Rotary Club of Burwood has decided to donate \$1 m over the next six years to enable other Clubs to apply for and secure loans.

Thirdly, our club has surplus alcohol from functions over the last two years, and Irene Stokes is organising for the sale of these wines and beers.

Acting President Stephen noted that there is concern about the low attendances at our lunch time meetings, and there may be a change, after consultation with members, to two evening meetings a month.

Member updates and news

Maria Kouppas as Wellness Coordinator reported some very good news in that Sam Tartaglia has become our newest Club grand dad.

On a less positive note, Cathy Nicou is recovering from a small procedure last week. Jenny Mann and Peter Mifsud are recovering in Perth from their very frightening road accident about 120 kilometres from Broome. Rotary Club members in Perth are being very caring and supportive. Jenny and Peter will be soon returning to Melbourne to continue their recovery. Two separate cards were passed around at the meeting for both Cathy and Jenny and Peter.

Grant Stephenson is recovering from pneumonia and Vic Abfalter from surgery.

Guest speaker

Veronica O'Sullivan introduced the meeting's guest speaker, Stefan Romaniv OAM. Stefan is among other positions the 1st Vice President of Ukrainian World Congress. Stefan has been into Ukraine numerous times this year, including with PM Albanese, where he discussed the situation in Ukraine and its broader ramifications. Stefan, a local, has been awarded a St Bernard's College, Essendon, Hall of Famer.

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Stefan started his talk with an emphatic declaration: 'Ukrainia will win, we are fighting a war of values.' Stefan then advised that the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations is the leading Ukrainian democracy organisation in Australia.

Some historical and political data was then provided by Stefan, along with some fake news.

Ukraine has faced seventy years of Russian domination. It gained independence in 1991. In 2013 the Ukrainian people voted for integration into Europe. Almost immediately Russia invaded and subsequently annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine.



Russia has in 2022 as we all know once more invaded Ukrainia under the guise of liberating Ukraine and its people from Neo Nazis and protecting its Russian residents. In short to 'demilitarise and denazify' Ukraine. Stefan is concerned that such 'fake news' for which there is no justification continues.

Stefan notes the Ukraine has a sophisticated army, but Ukraine needs lethal weaponry rather than boots on the ground. He cannot understand why a no-fly zone has not been declared.

There is a strong need to know what's happening on the ground in Ukraine and to work collaboratively to get food stuffs and other essential goods to where they are most desperately needed. There is a meeting, which Stefan will be attending, to discuss such on the ground re-build with the Ukranian World Congress. Unfortunately, Stefan comments that the psychological costs and scars of war fare stay with you for your entire life.

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The Ukrainian associations work closely with Rotary to achieve such outcomes. Stefan commends that tax deductibility and the very organised way in which Rotary goes about its service provision.

A total of \$6.3 m has been raised to date. An occupational therapy program has been started. The first lot of research funding for the establishment of a Lifeline program in Ukraine has also been provided, Stefan notes.

Stefan bemoans that since the start of the Russian invasion, nearly seven hundred children have been killed, and 12.8 million people have been displaced in Ukraine. More than four hundred health facilities and hospitals have been destroyed, along with many other vital community facilities.

Stefan concluded his talk by thanking Rotary both locally and internationally for the on-going support that it has provided, and will undoubtedly continue to offer.

Veronica O'Sullivan thanked Stefan for his moving talk and promised that our Club will do all that we can to continue our support of the Ukrainian people and nation.

Michael Mahoney noted that there a series of fund-raising events. One is a black-tie affair in Carlton. Another is having a very reasonably priced meal at Ukranian House in Essendon. For more details please contact Michael.

Acting President Stephen Roe thanked Maria Kouppas for contacting the Rotary Club of Perth about helping Jenny and Peter recuperate from their very serious accident. The Club and its members have been very generous in their support.

Stephen also thanked Stefan for his wonderful presentation. Stephen commended Lisa Lowcock for having an article on the Ukrainian situation accepted for publication in Rotary Downunder.

Before closing the meeting, acting President Stephen advised that we are always after new members, and he is always available to offer advice and receive information about such potential members.

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Upcoming events

- [Josh Mahoney, CEO Essendon Football Club](#)

The Anglers Tavern

Sep 06, 2022

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

- [Lucia Di Mao](#)

The Anglers Tavern

Sep 20, 2022

12:45 AM – 2:00 PM

- [RCE AGM](#)

Oct 18, 2022

12:03 AM – 1:22 PM

- [NO Meeting - CUP DAY Holiday](#)

Nov 01, 2022

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You are invited to come and hear

JOSH MAHONEY ESSENDON FOOTBALL CLUB GENERAL MANAGER

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER, 2022

6 for 7.00-8.30pm | \$30
course meal | Drinks at the bar

Anglers Tavern, 2 Raleigh Road, Maribyrnong

Come dressed in your club colours,
it's sure to be a great night

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2022-2023 Board Members

President	Vera Maljevac
Vice President	Shirley Kukk
President Elect	Michael Portelli
Immediate Past President	Sunil Perera
Secretary	Stephen Roe
Treasurer	Kelly Abfalter
Club Service	Lisa Lowcock
Community	Cathy Nicou
International	Tony De Fazio
Vocational	Irene Stokes
Youth & Environmental Sustainability	Andrew Panjkov

Other Positions/Roles

Art Show	Nola Spicer
Bulletin	John Odgers
D9800 Foundation	David Abbey
DIK Coordinator	John Odgers
Facebook	Lisa Lowcock
Foundation	Maria Kouppas
International Mentors	Nola Spicer, Richard Lawrence
Membership	Lisa Lowcock, Veronica O'Sullivan
Men's Shed Coordinator	Lisa Lowcock, Peter Condos
Onto Conference	Michael Portelli
Protection Officer	Sam Tartaglia
Public Officer	Stephen Roe
Royce Abbey Awards	Maria Kouppas
The Royce and Jean Abbey Vocational Scholarship Committee	David Abbey, Roger Leask, Maria Kouppas, Shirley Kukk
Website	Peter Condos
Wellness Coordinator	Maria Kouppas

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Blankets for homeless people

The Rotary Club of Essendon were made aware that [Youth Projects - The Living Room](#) were in desperate need of appropriate sleeping bags for people who are living through the freezing nights on the streets of Melbourne CBD. Discussions were held with the Night Nurses and members joined them as they worked through the evening.



The Rotary Club of Essendon contributed \$2475.00 and with a successful grant application through Rotary District 9800 to The Rotary Foundation, an additional \$2475.00 was received. This enabled the club to purchase 130 sleeping bags which were delivered to the grateful staff to distribute to their needy clients.

We would like to thank BCF– Boating, Camping, Fishing in Braybrook, Rotary Foundation, Rotary District 9800 and members of the club for their contribution to this amazing project

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Bonjour from Past President Grant Sheldon

In July 2012 I became President of the Rotary Club of Essendon. As a former Rotary Youth Exchange Student (1980), I was eager for our club to re-engage with that program. With the help of many people, both from within and external to our club, and especially from Peter and Leigh Baker, we were able to make it happen. Charlotte Salmon, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Saverne, France, joined us within a few weeks to spend her year in Australia. Almost 10 years later to the day, my family were absolutely delighted to attend her wedding.

Also in attendance were fellow 2012 exchange students: Riley Jackson, USA, hosted by the Rotary Clubs of Flemington and Kensington, Karin Evars, Finland, hosted by the Rotary Clubs of Yarraville, Werribee and Point Cook, and Camilla Henriksen, Denmark, hosted by the Rotary Club of Cobden. Rotary Youth Exchange certainly promotes enduring international relationships.

