

# C O N T A C T

## **Evening meeting September 20, 2022**

Tony De Fazio opened the meeting with a welcome to all those attending, including guests.

President Vera noted that attendance was affected by the school holidays that meant a number of members were holidaying or minding grandchildren, grand nieces and nephews and so on.

President Vera welcomed the meeting's guests. These included Norberto Soares da Cruz the current Royce and Jean Abbey Vocational Scholarship recipient from Timor Leste. Don Jago, Past District Governor, and Rotary Club of Camberwell member was welcomed.

President Vera welcomed the evening's guest speaker, Lucia di Miao, from the Royal Children's Hospital. President Vera also welcomed several other guests, including Past President Jenny Foster, Elena De Fazio and Janice Memery, and Grace and Pat Volpe.

President Vera noted that Fong Loong See provided a training spot for Norberto at Coffex.

President Vera also advised that in response to several issues that have circulated in recent weeks, and a member seeking legal representation. After an extraordinary Board meeting the member has been invited to participate in mediation to resolve the dispute with the Club.

An acknowledgement to Queen Elizabeth II was then offered. President Vera commented that it was good that ten 'ordinary' Australians were invited and travelled with the Prime Minister and attended the Queen's funeral. President Vera asked the meeting to observe a minute's silence as a sign of respect.

Maria Kouppas was then invited to present the wellness report. Fortunately, everyone is well at the moment, other than Bev Smythe who has decided to resign from our club after a recent stay in hospital, and her decision to concentrate on her wellbeing. The second casualty is Fong who fell on his back but is surviving on pain killers.

Don Jago then introduced Norberto Soares da Cruz, describing him as a real community leader and agricultural practitioner from Timor Leste. Wednesday 23 September It is Norberto's second last day at Coffex. This is to be followed by practical leaning in Geelong, and Weribee for learning about poultry raising.

Norberto thanked everyone for the great learning opportunities provided by the Royce and Jean Abbey Vocational Scholarship. Norberto and his family do have a small coffee plantation in Timor Leste, but now he is learning about different type of coffee processing and packing,

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The evening's guest speaker, Lucia di Miao, was introduced. Lucia is currently the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) Auxiliaries Coordinator. As such Lucia is heavily involved in the RCH Good Friday Appeal.

The RCH Auxiliaries section has been operating for 100 years, during which time the various auxiliary groups have raised over \$45.5 million. In the year 2020 it raised \$1.5 million, representing a large contribution to RCH. This year, the Auxiliaries have raised \$1.75 million for leading edge equipment purchases, including a 3D mapping system. Such advanced equipment will significantly help the RCH in its mission.

Lucia advised that there were now 48 active auxiliary groups with more than 450 members. Each of the auxiliaries has a passion and a purpose for RCH fund raising. One example that Lucia shared is the cancer auxiliary that raises between \$200-\$250 per year, specifically to aid in child cancer treatment and research.

Lucia then shared a great story about a very large individual donation. A ten year old had a stroke and open-heart surgery, both of which are very rare in such a young person. The child was very well treated and cared for in RCH. This led to a very sizable donation from the child's family, in several instalments, of \$500,000.

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Lucia noted that RCH has an annual bed sponsorship program, since hospital beds can cost around \$5,000. For a very large, multi-bed hospital this is a substantial capital investment. RCH has quite a range of corporate sponsors. Among them are K Mart, Smorgans, The Pratt family, Murdoch Research and the University of Melbourne.

Tony de Fazio thanked Lucia for her excellent presentation and insights into the RCH and its auxiliaries.

Cathy Nicou reminded those present of the Soiree on October 14 at the Moonee Valley Council Chambers. More information is provided towards the end of this Contact. Cathy encouraged everyone to attend this fund-raising evening. Funds will be used to assist a range of Rotary projects, and especially for displaced Ukrainian people residing in Melbourne.

President Vera also thanked Lucia for a fantastic presentation. She reminded the audience of the next meeting on October 4, featuring Don Farrands, QC, speaking on courage and compassion. More information is provided towards the end of this Contact.



## Upcoming events

- [Night Meeting Don Farrands](#)  
Anglers Tavern  
Oct 04, 2022, 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM
- [Rotary Soiree night](#)  
MVCC Mayoral Chambers  
Oct 14, 2022, 6:45 PM – 11:00 PM
- [Lunch Meeting: President John Damrow, RC Kyneton](#)  
Anglers Tavern  
Oct 18, 2022, 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
- [Zone 8 Conference](#)  
Oct 28, 2022 – Oct 30, 2022

At the close of the meeting, President Vera shared this quote from Anne Frank: “Everyone has inside him a piece of good news. The good news is that you don’t know how great you can be! How much you can love! What you can accomplish! And what your potential is!”

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## Corrigendum Contact v. 88 Issue 5

Winner of \$50 voucher for Windy Hill Bistro drawn on September 6 was Grant Sheldon, not Grant Stephenson as reported in previous issue of Contact. In total, including a donation of \$250, the raffle raised \$600.

### *Thank you to !!!*



Help yourself and help our Club by banking with Strathmore Community Bank. Take out a loan, term deposit or open a bank account and the club will receive up to \$500. Drop into the branch at 337 Napier Street, Strathmore or call

Manager David Porter on 9374-2607 for details

## Request for help from DIK

On Tuesday 27/9 we are collecting 118 desks form Catholic Ladies College at 19 Diamond Street Eltham. Anyone who lives out that way would be welcome to help load.

On Tuesday 4/10 we are collecting a few desks and 70 Chairs from Bayswater Secondary School at 14 Orchid Road Bayswater and

On Tuesday 11/10 we have 120 Desks and 120 Chairs to collect from Noble Park English Language School.

In each of these cases, a couple of extra people at each collection point will be of significant help to load. Then as each load needs to be unloaded and stored back at DIK, some additional help to do this will also be most appreciated.

Probably in later October, we will have another container for Timor Leste to organise and load - we are still to make this booking.

Throughout this period, the normal activities at the store will be happening with deliveries, clothes and OT visits as well as a number of other collections of smaller pickups.

So, plenty of activity and many opportunities to provide a bit of help to the regular team.. Please let me or Laurie know if you can assist at any of these.

Cheers

Bob Glindemann.

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## October 4 evening meeting


SPEAKER: DON FARRANDS QC

You are invited to  
**COURAGE & COMPASION**


A STRETCHER BEARER'S JOURNEY FROM NO-MAN'S LAND AND BEYOND

TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER



6.30 for 7.00-8.30pm | \$30  
2 course meal | Drinks at the bar  
Anglers Tavern, 2 Raleigh Road, Maribyrnong



SCAN CODE TO BOOK



Don Farrands QC, commercial barrister, chartered accountant and company director is the grandson of Nelson Ferguson. Don became interested in the story of his grandfather Nelson when his mother shared some old long-forgotten diaries of her father and his sketches and paintings during WWI, describing the daily life of a stretcher bearer.

Rotary Club of Essendon Inc.

PRESENTS

# ROTARY SOIREE 2022

FRIDAY 14TH OCT  
7PM - 11PM

MOONEE VALLEY COUNCIL  
MAYORAL CHAMBERS

9 KELLAWAY AVE, MOONEE PONDS  
ENTRANCE VIA PASCOE VALE RD, MOONEE PONDS

\$65 PER PERSON

INCLUDES FINGER FOOD, DRINKS, LIVE  
MUSIC, AUCTIONS, MANY SILENT AUCTION  
ITEMS, A GREAT MC & A GREAT NIGHT

FUNDS RAISED WILL SUPPORT ROTARY PROJECTS  
ESPECIALLY DISPLACED UKRAINIAN PEOPLE IN MELBOURNE

TICKETS ARE  
NOW AVAILABLE.

WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/CBZGX

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## **Request for ideas on tourist attractions for 2023 RI Conference in Melbourne**

*Please see the email below from Meagan Martin, Editor of Rotarydownunder, who would like some input on suggested tourist attractions for our visitors during the Rotary International Melbourne Convention in May 2023.*

Hi there,

I am hoping that you and/or a couple of members from your club might be able to help me out with some 'insider Melbourne intel' for a story I am putting together.

We were recently in Melbourne on an assignment from Rotary International in the US to write and photograph a travel/destination feature on the city in the lead-up to next year's International Convention. RI has requested that we feature the city through the eyes of local Rotarians and Rotaractors by asking them to share what their favourite thing/place to see/do/experience in Melbourne is and why.

We didn't manage to catch up with as many people as we hoped while we were there and I'm wondering if a couple of members from your club would mind putting one or two paragraphs together for me on their favourite thing/place to see/do/experience in or around Melbourne and why?

The feature will run in the US magazine in November as well as all the regional mags around the world, including RDU.

Below is an example from a member of the Melbourne Passport Club for reference.

Jessica Palti, Public Image Director Rotary Passport Melbourne

### *Sorrento – Mornington Peninsula*

An hour's drive from Melbourne, the coastal town of Sorrento is the perfect place for a day trip. The quaint town shopping strip has many cafes, clothing stores, art galleries and homewares stores. The main shopping strip itself is nestled between the calm front beach of Port Phillip Bay and the ocean back beach of Bass Strait. At the front beach, walk along the water edge, and when the tide is out you can walk along the sand banks. At the beautiful back beach you can watch the waves roll in and when the tide is out, walk and weave your way around the natural rockpools.

Hidden gem, (but not so hidden because it's just so good)! is the great fish and chip shop, Fish Fetish. Grab a takeaway and head down to either of the beaches to soak in the sun and take in the fresh air. And pick yourself up a famous vanilla slice from the Vanilla Slice Café.