

# C O N T A C T

**Club meeting 03/10/2023**

**Windy Hill Venue, Cnr Napier & Brewster St, Essendon 3040**

**Rotary International Theme October 2023. Community Economic and Development Month.**



Adelante group loan client Dona Rosario sells vegetables in La Esperanza, Honduras. The Adelante Foundation's microcredit program, which offers women loans and business training aimed at increasing their household incomes, is supported by a Rotary global grant.

Published Brandcenter.rotary.org 23 May 2013.

## From our President...



The Royce Abbey Award is presented to people who show Enthusiasm and Commitment to Rotary.

At our meeting this week this award was presented to a past member who has for many years, whether during his time as a member and afterwards, has displayed the characteristics which have guaranteed him to be a worthy recipient of this award.

President Michael Portelli along with Roger Leask – the instigator of the award – presented Alan Murphy OAM with the Royce Abbey Award. The meeting time did not allow for the full list of why Alan is worthy of the award suffice to say that his community service spans many years in all many areas of community interest. From being involved at the highest levels in the Essendon Football Club and St Bernards College, to being the General Manager of the Moomba festival, becoming an author and regular newspaper columnist, Alan has ensured that our Rotary values are carried in to business and community through his actions and words.

Congratulations Alan.

The 500<sup>th</sup> Royce Abbey Award will soon be presented at a very special celebration night. This means that \$500,000.00 has been generated to support the Royce and Jean Abbey Vocational Scholarship programme. To my understanding this would be the biggest fundraiser ever within our club. Roger Leask came up with the idea and fully supported by Royce Abbey the awards have gone on to not only support the scholarship programme but as a way clubs can honour their most enthusiastic and

# C O N T A C T

committed Rotarians. Awards have been presented around the world and to the highest levels of community workers. Thank you to all involved in both the Awards and Scholarship programmes. More information about the 500<sup>th</sup> award dinner coming soon.

To learn more about the scholarship and award go to <https://www.royceabbey.com/>

## MANGO DRIVE

*A delicious way to support a great cause*



**Order a delicious 4.5kg box of mangoes and support BTPA.**

These mangoes are delicious, direct from the farm and will be hard to find in supermarkets this summer!



Mangoes can be collected from:

- Essendon
- Diamond Creek
- Avondale Heights
- North Ryde

They will be available for pick up in early December, with the exact dates to be confirmed.

ORDERS CLOSE  
22nd OCTOBER



[www.btpa.org.au/mangoes](http://www.btpa.org.au/mangoes)

Having recently had Catherine Scerri from Bahay Tuluyan (BT) as a guest speaker at our club we all know the great work that BT does.

To assist BT to continue assisting the most vulnerable children in Manilla the Australian team of supporters are having their annual Mango Drive again this year. Order a box and enjoy the delicious mangoes knowing you are also helping BT do their great work. Scan the QR code or go to [btpa.org.au/mangoes](http://btpa.org.au/mangoes) to order. Mangoes are going to be in short supply this year so make sure you get your order in a.s.a.p. Note from the Ed.; I've ordered these in the past and every mango has been super.



Congratulations to our sweet prize winner Steven Roe. Steve had the correct answer that there are only two countries with the wild polio virus still in circulation being Afghanistan with 5 and Pakistan with 2. World Polio Day is 24 October. Go to [www.endpolio.org](http://www.endpolio.org) to see how you can contribute to history by eradicating Polio forever.

## DO I HAVE A DEAL FOR YOU!

Are you a member who has had trouble getting to meetings lately? Is your life busy and you wonder how you can still support your club when your time is limited? Become a sponsor of this newsletter! You will receive acknowledgement as a sponsor in every edition as well as a sponsorship spot on our website. Everyone will know that you are a valued member of our club and that your business has the values of Rotary at its core. What are you waiting for? Become a sponsor now!

# C O N T A C T

Our club meeting this week focused on a matter close to many current and past members hearts. The property known as 2 Grice Cres. Essendon has the old Royal District Nursing Services building on it. The building was erected, maintained and extended due to the hard work and funds raised by many Essendon Rotarians over the years. The District Nurses served the community there for over 60 yrs until the service was sold and merged to the Bolton Clarke company. The site has since been left derelict and despite many efforts by current and past members of our club we have not been able to secure the site to again make it a focal point of serving the needy in our community.

One of our guests this week was Past President of the Rotary Club of Essendon, Alan Murphy. Alan explained how the site was deemed to be suitable for Caroline Chisholm (remember her? I told you a lot about her works in the last edition of Contact) to establish the first of ten sites along the road from Melbourne to the goldfields in the 1850's to cater for women and children travelling the hard roads to be safe to sleep and to have a meal at a reasonable cost. Alan explained the integral part our Rotary Club played in funding the site in the mid 1950's to become the RDNS base for our area. The site was chosen largely in part because of the history of the Caroline Chisholm connection and the suitability of continuing Caroline's community work. That is all now at risk as the government of Victoria have deemed it a site to be sold off for development. Members of the recently formed Friends of Caroline Chisholm group were also in attendance providing members with valuable information to assist us in understanding the need to not only retain the site as one of historical significance but also to reinvigorate it in to a place once again able to provide services to women and children in need, just as Caroline did.

To know more about how you can help this cause speak to President Michael Portelli.

The following pictures showing the opening of the RDNS are courtesy of one of our guests tonight, Julie Scott.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caroline\\_Chisholm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caroline_Chisholm)

<https://esshissoc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/E.H.S.-Newsletter-No.-247.pdf>

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# C O N T A C T



Are you or has someone you know been a philatelist? Do you have old stamp collections which you no longer want? Nola Spicer will take them off your hands and arrange to have them valued and sold to raise funds for the Ruben Health Centre club project to provide a dental chair and a medical waste incinerator; see later in this newsletter for details of the project. Contact Nola for more information about donating your stamp collection.

## And from our committees...

### **Myanmar Delegation Trip November 2023**

The Rotary Club of Essendon Myanmar Delegation Trip is happening from November 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> 2023. It's not too late to join us if you want to come and see all the projects the RCE are doing in this poor country, as well experience much of the culture, food and people. Everyone who does this trip comes back enriched by the experience. There is nothing like seeing first hand how our efforts make such a huge difference to the lives of the people in Myanmar – especially the children. Plus, you will see the most wonderful sites such as the spectacular Shwedagon



Pagoda in Yangon (right) But you will need to get organised now.

This year's projects include:

Yangon General Hospital medical equipment donation \$45,876

Step In, Step Up Vocational Training presentation and tour of campus and ghetto - donation of 200 x solar lights for students to use during the many black outs and funding of \$39,788

Hope for Myanmar Children's Home visit and tour plus supply of food, children's clothes and sports balls etc.... \$1,000

Visit to Yangon Rotary Club dinner meeting, our in-country partner club

Visit to Myanmar Liver Foundation and donation of consumables \$500

Visit to Mary Chapman School for the Deaf – inspect the Dishwasher donated by RCE \$8,400

For further details contact RICHARD LAWRENCE – 0418-369 290



# C O N T A C T

Michael Cariss has requested that members bring along as many gold coins as they can carry to meetings. Come along to our next club meeting and you'll find out why...



## Did you know... **10 October is World Mental Health Day**

The overall objective of World Mental Health Day is to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of mental health.

The Day provides an opportunity for all stakeholders working on mental health issues to talk about their work, and what more needs to be done to make mental health care a reality for people worldwide.

You probably know more people who have dealt with mental ill health than you realise. People are still a bit hesitant to speak about their challenges in keeping good mental health. There are many reasons for that. Some are not ready to speak. Some are worried they may be discriminated against. But this day is set aside for the many who care about people's mental health to discuss this big issue. Good mental health is an integral part of our overall health and wellbeing. Access to appropriate quality mental health care should be a universal human right but not everybody knows where to go or even has access to care when they need it. This needs to be challenged and corrected. Go to the World Health Organisation to get involved.

<https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-mental-health-day>

To win the sweet treat courtesy of the Editor be the first person to email me with the answer to this question. Finish this sentence that R.I. President Gordon McNally says in the October 2023 Presidential Message – use this link. <https://my.rotary.org/en/news-media/office-president/presidential-message>

We need to learn how to ask not just "How are you?" but also "....." By doing so, Rotary can continue to *Create Hope in the World*.

International project in Sri Lanka providing reconstructive surgery to infants with cleft lip congenital disorder. The Rotary Club of Battaramulla in Sri Lanka partnered with the Rotary Club of Essendon to fund the



reconstructive surgery of cleft lips to 108 infants and to date have completed over 100 surgeries.

Cleft lip while not life threatening immediately does result in feeding difficulties in infants, facial disfiguration, impaired speech and ultimately social marginalisation in Sri Lanka. If left untreated infants will not thrive as they cannot feed effectively.

Approximately 550 such births occur annually in Sri Lanka and reconstructive surgery is usually carried out within 3-5 months of birth.

# C O N T A C T

The expertise to treat children is available in the Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children in Columbo but while receiving around 300 cleft lip and cleft palate patients annually, is able to treat only about 200. The rest either remain untreated or face extremely expensive costs if they can obtain private medical attention.

The objective of the project was to provide reconstructive surgery to cleft lip patients in a manner that will ensure that at least all of the patients visiting the hospital, who are from

economically disadvantaged families and who cannot afford private medical attention will receive corrective surgery. Congratulations to all involved in this wonderful life changing project.



## Coming up soon...

- International Committee Meeting Tuesday 10th October home of Richard Lawrence
- **Tuesday 17 October** Jannete Eid, Partner of WRE Lawyers, Estate Planning and Updating your will.
- **Tuesday 24 October is World Polio day.**
- **Friday 03 November Days for Girls Essendon** Race Day at the Kilmore Racing Club BOOKINGS are essential by 24 October via this link <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1116818>  
Enquiries - Janice Young ph; 0414 782 557 or [essendonvic@daysforgirls.org](mailto:essendonvic@daysforgirls.org)
- **Rotary Club of Essendon North Oaks Day Luncheon** at the Hyatt Event Centre in Essendon Fields  
Thursday 09 November [www.trybooking.com/CLKGR](http://www.trybooking.com/CLKGR) Contact: Barry Coleman 0427 852 062
- Tuesday 21 November is our club AGM
- **Club meeting Tuesday 28 November** Ron Payne, the District Governor of 9800, will make his official visit.
- **Friday 08 December is our Christmas Party**; better make sure you're being nice not naughty!!!
- **Sunday 24 March 2024** Fellowship day for Rotary Club of Essendon, an opportunity for families past and present to come together. The lunch will take place at Drusilla Mansion, known as the 'jewel of the crown' in Mount Macedon the day will feature a spit roast feast and time to enjoy the beautiful gardens.

**You and your family and friends are invited to visit us at an upcoming meeting**

<https://www.rce.org.au/Events>



# C O N T A C T

**Strathmore Men's Shed** is going from strength to strength. Their membership has now reached 80! This means that this project of the Rotary Clubs of Essendon (US!), Essendon North and Strathmore is proving to be extremely successful. After an initial input from the three clubs the Shed has been able to be self-sufficient by accepting commissions from community groups surrounding them and also by selling individual items to the public. The Men's Shed provides a place where men of any age and ability can come together in a safe environment to support the health and wellbeing of men by being able to talk and do things shoulder to shoulder. <http://www.strathmoremensshed.com.au/>

Use this link to see some of the amazing community projects which have been undertaken by the members of the Strathmore Men's Shed. <http://www.strathmoremensshed.com.au/community-projects.html>



To remain self-sufficient the Sheddies need your support. Speak to John Odgers to buy a raffle ticket for a chance to win some beautiful items. First prize is a hand-crafted traditional rocking horse made from aged Oregon timbers salvaged from renovations at Melbourne University. This will truly become a cherished family heirloom that generations of children will adore. And if you think you can't utilise it there are many children's charities who would gladly accept it. (These sorts of items go for mega bucks so you could even sell it and spend the money on yourself .... Merry Christmas to me! )



Show the world that you are a Rotarian supporting the efforts to eradicate Polio from our world forever. Go to the website below to see the great merchandise available. While you are there flick through the other Rotary themed items for sale. Pick up some Christmas presents for your family! Get some souvenirs to take to friends overseas. Buy yourself that special present that you deserve. Just do it! Shop and show the world that you are a Rotarian and proud of it. <https://rdusupplies.com.au/end-polio-now/>

# C O N T A C T

## **Motions to Board 26/09/2023:**

### Club Service:

1. That the Rotary Club of Essendon purchases two pull-up banners at a cost of no more than \$180 each.

**Moved Peter, seconded Veronica. CARRIED.**

### Community:

1. That RCE supports Windy Hill Aphasia Group as auspice (*Note: this motion was emailed by Cathy on 8Sep23 with a request for emailed responses due to the timing of the aphasia grant application*).

**The motion was circulated by email and passed by majority vote.**

### International:

1. That the RCE funds food, bathroom needs, cleaning products for the Hope for Myanmar Children's Home Yangon for AUD \$1000, funds to be used from the Myanmar Projects account. Items to be purchased and supplied by the Myanmar Delegation going to Myanmar in November 2023.

**Moved Richard, seconded Veronica. CARRIED.**

1. That the RCE funds the supply of medical consumables for the Myanmar Liver Foundation (MLF) for AUD \$500 – funds to be given directly to MLF by the Delegation travelling to Myanmar in November 2023.

**Moved Richard, seconded Veronica. CARRIED.**

1. That the RCE develops a Royce and Jean Abbey Vocational Scholarship application for a recipient from Ruben Centre, Kenya.

This needs a working party to be established to assist in the extensive process.

**Moved Richard, seconded Veronica. CARRIED.**

### Treasurer:

1. That the newly legislated Not-For-Profit return be filed with the ATO by Mead Partners Tax Accountants, with information provided by the Treasurer of RCE, for an annual cost of \$220 incl. GST.

**Moved Sunil, seconded Veronica. CARRIED.**

1. That Board approves payment of the increased cost involved in obtaining the outstanding Withholding Tax refund amounting to \$3,700 (already received \$1,067 franking credits), the one-off cost having risen from \$550 to \$880 incl. GST.

**Moved Sunil, seconded Veronica. CARRIED.**



# C O N T A C T

If you are a newish member be sure to log in and have a look at what being a member of a Rotary club can mean for you. <https://my.rotary.org/en/learning-reference/learn-role/new-member>

For members who have been around a while, check out the <https://www.rotary.org/en> website. You will be amazed at the information and resources there. You will also be able to get up to date with the focus and direction of Rotary International and read about the ways our club and members can be relevant in a society where there are so many charity options out there for people to support.

Do you know someone who would make a great Rotarian? Direct them to the RI website to learn more about Rotary. <https://www.rotary.org/en>

For information about the Rotary Foundation Australia – which is where our grants money comes from – go to <https://www.rotaryfoundationaustralia.org.au/>

**The Rotary Club of Essendon meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month for dinner at 6pm in the bistro of the Windy Hill Venue followed by our meeting 7:00pm to 8:30pm.**

**Cnr Napier & Brewster Streets, Essendon VIC 3040**

**Find out more about us at [www.rce.org.au/](http://www.rce.org.au/)**

**For further information contact [president@rce.org.au](mailto:president@rce.org.au) or [secretary@rce.org.au](mailto:secretary@rce.org.au)**

## **Rotary International Mission**

**We provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.**

## **Rotary International Vision Statement**

**Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.**

We would like to thank our official sponsors;



Interested in being a sponsor?

[Download the website sponsorship guide](#)