

C O N T A C T

Club meeting on 21 February 2023

President Vera noted that we acknowledge that we are meeting on the lands of the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to their Ancestors and Elders, past, present and emerging.

A little bit of history.....

Windy Hill holds a special place in the hearts and minds of many people across Australia, particularly those in Moonee Valley. People recall the roar of the crowds as they watched their beloved Bombers play Aussie Rules for around 70 years.

While no longer playing AFL or training at the venue, Essendon Football Club still recognises Windy Hill as their spiritual home. The history and significance of Windy Hill goes beyond football, with links to local indigenous groups but also sporting associations that began back in 1872 with the formation of Essendon Cricket Club. Essendon Bowls Club was established shortly after in 1885, with both clubs calling Windy Hill home for over 130 years.

Essendon Croquet Club arrived in 1913.

President Vera asked all those at the meeting to Let's spend a minute focusing on what's good in our lives and being thankful for the things we have.

President Vera welcomed everyone to the meeting. Geoff Gray and a special warm welcome to our prospective members, Valmai Burn, John Burn, Debra Kingston, Resina Boyer. All prospective members were asked to present a brief bio.

President update

President Vera first commented on the Club Fundraiser at the Maribyrnong Parks Bowls Club. Congratulations and thanks to Michael Portelli, the Vocational committee and all those who helped with the planning of this event.

Special thanks to those who prepared the yummy food and worked tirelessly in the kitchen. I am proud to announce that we made a total profit of \$1,933.35. Nothing better than healthy homemade cooking!

The next item President Vera noted was the 9800 District Governor nominee 2025-26. District 9800 Governor Nominating Committee met at Rotary Melbourne on 18 February.

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I am very pleased to advise that the District 9800 Governor Nominee (Designate), to serve as Governor in 2025-2026, will be Past President Peter Shephard, nominated by the Rotary Club of Altona.

We congratulate Peter on his selection. This announcement was formally delivered by DG Amanda Wendt. Congratulations to Peter!

President Vera then reported on the Kangan Institute Student Excellence Awards for Inspirational Student of the Year. Our Club is proud once again to sponsor two of these awards. **Angus Cooper**, Certificate III in Heavy Commercial Vehicle Mechanical Technology VETDSS Student of the Year: Engineering – **Anas Babaei**.

Congratulations to all the Award recipients and thanks to Andrew and his team for the ongoing commitment to these awards.



Kangan Institute's Industry Excellence Awards - sponsored by Rotary Club of Essendon



President Vera said thank you to all the Committee Chairs and members for the effort you put into making this a great Club! Always a fantastic team effort!

President Vera concluded her update report with a thought for the day:
'Stay away from those people who try to disparage your ambitions. Small minds will always do that, but great minds will give you a feeling that you can become great too.' — Mark Twain

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Committee reports and updates

Treasurer - Sunil
 Youth/Environment and Sustainability – Andrew
 Community – Cathy
 Club Service – Peter Baker
 Vocational – Michael Portelli and Joanne
 International – Tony
 Art Show - Nola

Treasurer Sunil posted the updated financial report

<u>ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNT - SUMMARY</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
Opening Balance - Bank - July	8,544.99
<u>Receipts</u>	
Member Fees	15,050.00
Wine Sales & NM Fund receipts	374.71
Donations	5,000.00
Meetings	10,769.02
TOTAL RECEIPTS	39,738.72
<u>Payments</u>	
Art Show - Refunds	552.15
Venue Fees	(9,575.75)
Badges	(337.60)
RI Fees	(5,395.88)
Rotary District 9800	(5,676.83)
Rotary Down under	(1,845.00)
Miscellaneous/CAV Fees	(759.20)
Zoom Fees	(184.71)
Gifts	(143.00)
President's Allowance Half yearly	(1,000.00)
Transfer to Projects A/C - Michael Mahoney	(5,000.00)
Transfer to Projects A/C	(353.10)
Transfer to NM Fund	(14.71)
Bank Charges	(567.20)
TOTAL PAYMENTS	(30,300.83)
 Bank Balance -Feb 2023	 9,437.89



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PROJECTS ACCOUNT - SUMMARY Year to date

Opening bank balance -July 18,301.80
Receipts
Donations & Auction Receipts
Michael Mahoney 5,000.00
Michael Pepi - Ukrainian Project 950.00
Steve Roe - Ukrainian Project 50.00
Cathy Nicou - Wine Purchases 180.00
C Hilbert - Wine Purchases 180.00
Nola Spicer - Wine Purchases 180.00
Soiree - Income 5,221.33
Bowling club dinner- Auction 564.55
Other Receipts & Grants
Sale of laptop and others 50.00
Its Time raffle 64.25
BBQ - Bunnings 1,188.40
Wine sales - Transfer from Admin A/C 353.10
District Grant-Youth Projects Sleeping bags 2,437.00
Art Show Receipts 16,000.00
Strathmore Bank money for new A/Cs 160.00
Grant - Aphasia - MVCC 1,500.00
Bendigo Bank funding 4,000.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS 56,380.43

Payments

Transfer to Norm Mollica Fund (15,106.50)
Rotary Foundation (5,000.00)
Aphasia Group - Susan Walker (750.00)
RYLA - Ella Saunders (950.00)
Youth projects- White Goods (1,728.00)
Scope Aust-Disability Art Supplies project (1,000.00)
SunScreen Project - Project \$3,000 approved (1,962.40) awaiting DG Grant \$1,500
Puffing Billy - Ukrainians (2,000.00)
Christmas cake - RCH (514.80)
Scholarships - EKC & BPC (2,000.00) Paid from the \$7,675 total approved by the Board

TOTAL PAYMENTS (31,011.70)

Closing Bank Balance Feb 2023 25,368.73

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Report from Youth/ environment committee

Not received at time of publication

Community Report-February 2023

Soiree:

The Soiree was held in October 2022. The event was well attended by Rotarians and friends on a challenging day (Rain and Floods). Approximately \$5000 was raised. Alistair Fraser did a brilliant job in leading a committed team to organise the event. It is envisaged \$3000 will go towards supporting Ukrainian people in Victoria displaced by war.

Ukrainian People displaced due to War:

Thanks to Christine Hilbert who continues to liaise with Andrea from the Ukrainian Association to identify needs of the Community. Possibility of providing funding for swimming lessons or a program to support Youth experiencing Home-sickness.

Youth Projects:

Youth Projects is an organisation based in Hosier Lane Melbourne. Youth Projects supports people of all ages sleeping rough in Melbourne's Central Business District. They provide drop in services, as well as night nurses attending to clients on the street.

Funds have been accessed through a District Matching Grant application. RCE are contributing \$2500 and District Foundation, \$2500, making the total project \$5000. Items have been sourced and purchased to assist people who are street based to have protection from the extremes of heat in our warmer months. Over the next two weeks RCE members will accompany Youth Projects' Night Nurses and assist with distributing the items.

Thanks to Luke Docking for Co-ordinating this project.

Scope:

Scope is an organisation supporting people across the state, living with Disabilities. In December Vera, Lisa and Lisa's Grandson visited Scope for morning tea. Clients showcased their musical skills using instruments purchased with funding from RCE. Scope recently moved to new premises and will invite RCE to the official opening. Further projects to be explored.



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Port Melbourne SLSC Members:

Members to attend and observe Nippers program. Explore possibility of water safety lessons for children displaced due to war in Ukraine.

Thanks to Joanne Westover for assistance.

Windy Hill Aphasia Group:

The group is made up of 12 locals living with Aphasia. Aphasia impacts a person's ability to communicate. It can occur suddenly after a stroke or head injury, or develop slowly from brain disease.

The group is very grateful to RCE for acting as Auspice so the group are able to access funding from Moonee Valley to pay for a speech pathologist to attend social gatherings and help with communication. Rotarians have been invited to attend gatherings.

Thanks!

Thank you to all the Community committee for your contribution and Input. It is a real pleasure working with you all.

Club Services Committee Report 21/02/2023

Chair Lisa Lowcock

Thanks to all who were assisting with the logistics while we were at The Anglers. Now that we are meeting at Windy Hill we will assess what assistance we need with setting up/packing up and make rosters for club members to be involved over coming months.

For a very long time I have been hearing people say that we don't have enough time to chat with other members at meetings. If you want to get the maximum fellowship opportunities out of our fortnightly meetings you should take advantage of the pre-meeting dinner which we are now having. Unlike when we met at the Anglers and were eating and listening to speakers at the same time, we can now sit and chat over dinner and then focus on the speakers at the meeting upstairs.

The meetings officially start now at 7pm so we suggest getting to the Bistro by 6pm to order, eat without rushing and then start moving upstairs around 6.45pm. We do need you to register via the online link which is still sent out prior to each meeting so we can arrange tables for us to sit together in the bistro.

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We have been asked about the charge of \$5 per person which used to be added to our meal cost at the Anglers. It was used to cover the costs of guest speakers and other dignitaries meals and the thank you gift we give to a speaker. It was also used for other contingencies.

We have discussed this now as we are no longer charging for a meal. Our committee supports a charge to cover such costs to be spread across the entirety of our membership via an increase in annual fees and not just made a burden on those who attend meetings.

A joint meeting is to be held with Rotary Club of Keilor East at Windy Hill on Monday 27th March 2023. Pres. Vera and RCKE Pres. Deb are discussing the format. The night is being organised via the Art Show committee and Nola Spicer at our end to hear from Dr Michael Davies the principal of St Bernard's about how our donations and sponsorships are being managed.

As this will be a joint meeting it is considered an official meeting for us and our regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday 21 st March will be cancelled. Attendance at the joint meeting will be considered as a club meeting in lieu. You will need to register via the email link so we can set up the room and meals area accordingly.

There will be a club planning day organised by Pres. Vera on Saturday 01/04/2023 venue to be confirmed. As such it has been decided that our regular meeting scheduled for the following Tuesday 04/04/2023 will be cancelled and the attendance at the planning day will be considered as a club meeting in lieu.

Membership; Pres. Vera and Lisa interviewed John and Valmai Burns to be members of the club. They are from a Rotary club in Canberra, moved to Melbourne currently deciding which local club will suit them. Awaiting their response.

Vera and Andrew interviewed Deb Kingston yesterday.

Andrew has two potential new members who attended the function at the bowls club; Sunita and Resina – sorry I don't know their surnames.

Charter Night will be held on Thursday 04/05/2023 at The Royal Victorian Motor Yacht Club at Williamstown as we did last year. There will be no meeting on the previous Tuesday 02/05/2023. We moved the event from the 2nd May to the 4th May due to costing as the Yacht Club is not open on the 2nd . What sort of event do the club members want? Formal? Theme night? Guest speaker to be confirmed.

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Official thanks must go to Veronica O’Sullivan who must have spoken to the Irish Faeries as she had been negotiating with Windy Hill to trial meetings at that venue long before the Maribyrnong River floods came along and forced us to look for a new place to meet. It has meant a seamless transition to the new venue as she had already arranged a store area for our “stuff” and a room for meeting at no cost.

Vocational Committee update

No report available at time of printing

International Committee report and update

Purpose

International Service encompasses efforts to expand Rotary’s humanitarian reach around the world; through Rotary’s avenues of services and aligning with the Rotary Foundations areas of focus, the clubs in our district are supported to research, design, implement and review projects globally. This is what our club has been doing for many years in helping those less fortunate overseas

This year’s committee comprises myself as chair, Richard Lawrence, Peter Condos, see Fong, Nola Spicer, Tim Anderson, Peter Halaseh, Norm Mollica and with special support from Shirely Kukk and John Odgers reporting on DIK.

Financials

We have some \$200,000 for Myanmar and \$25,000 for Ethiopia in investment accounts with Bendigo Bank Balanced Fund (Sandridge Trustees).

There is also some \$15,500 with RAWCS that needs to be spent on education in Myanmar and a further \$400 in RAWCS to be spent on medical equipment/supplies.

So we are committed to projects in Myanmar, Philippines and Ethiopia.

Update On Myanmar

At the outset I would like to recognise and acknowledge the enormous effort and commitment by Richard Lawrence on behalf of the club in Myanmar. His visits over there and the relationships developed, and assistance provided is to be commended. An example of Richards efforts include:

- Buying them 6 months of rice
- New tyres for their truck
- 40 soccer shirts from DIK

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Children's Home

Road into the property completed allows 12-month access which previously was not possible during the wet season.

Since December of last year, they have been able to construct some dormitory type buildings at the farm and this has allowed them to move from their previous rented building to the farm which they own themselves and removed the burden of rent. They now have 34 children in care and they are able to grow their own vegetables and fruits (bananas and pineapples etc...) as well as cows producing milk and this all reduces the costs on the organisation immensely.

The children have recommenced schooling at the local school which is a 5-minute walk from the farm and they really enjoy the extra space and farm life with the chooks and other animals and the Vege patch etc....

They have completed the fishpond and are producing fish to eat approx. 1,000 fish to Date.

Step-In Step-Up project -Myanmar

The organization has received the first payment and extremely over moon with our (Rotary's) support i.e. \$33,000 from our Myanmar and RAWCS accounts with board approval. They have added us as a sponsor partner (Rotary and RCE Icon) and they have linked it back to our RCE website. The other thing is they have called the Padauk program the Rotary Padauk project.

In summary: Padauk is aimed at the lost generation aged 15 - 17, for whom there is no longer any possibility of schooling and who are highly susceptible to be trafficked or employment by unscrupulous bosses. The program runs over 2 years and gives them vocational and life skills to enable them to enter the workforce without a school certificate. It is this Program – Padauk Kids the Rotary Club of Essendon partially fund over the next 12 months for 30 participants.

At this point I will run through quickly the SISU programme to give you a greater insight to its benefits.

A subcommittee has been formed by the International Committee to discuss and investigate the possible implementation of an online "Crowd Funding" programme to raise awareness and raise vital funds for the "SCOT project". The SCOT project stands for the Stop Child Organ Theft project. This is a major billion dollar criminal activity where one child is valued at over USD \$150,000. This horrific tragedy affects over 50,000 Myanmar families annually.

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Crowd Funding (CF) discussion: The committee discussed the overall set up for the CF. This is to include the following:

1. Establish an online presence via a sophisticated web site that has plenty picture content and lots of “Donate” buttons. The committee will require written content for the Website –the Step In Step Up organisation have offered to assist with content, pictures and information that they can supply to help build content on the SCOT website.
2. The incorporation of the RAWCS website in the payment of donations will save plenty of dollars as we will be able to link the DONATE button on the website so it goes directly to the RAWCS site for payment.
3. Marketing discussion looked at various options:
Social media marketing on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and any other worthwhile social media site. This would incorporate a link back to the website and a small story about the SCOT Total cost for the SCOT project.
Crowd Funding will be \$5,000 in this first twelve months with all seed funds to be used out of the RCE Myanmar Projects account which currently has over \$200,000 with board approval

Myanmar Oxygen Concentrators

Richard Lawrence received a big thank you from Dr San San Yi for the Oxygen Concentrators that Richard arranged to be sent to Myanmar during COVID-19 on behalf of the Rotary Club of Essendon.

COVID-19 in Myanmar was and still is a major problem for the local citizens who have no vaccines they can use to defend themselves against the virus. The vast majority ended up in a very under resourced Myanmar hospital which could only supply minimal oxygen to help with serious respiratory issues that caused and continue to cause major deaths as a result of having COVID-19 disease.

In late 2020 RCE via the International Committee (with Board support), decided to supply battery backup “Oxygen Concentrators” to four of the main hospitals in Yangon. During 2021 via our great local Myanmar supporter Dr San San Yi, together we supplied these oxygen machines to those thousands of patients who were suffering in these hospitals. In Dr San San Yi’s opinion the battery backed up Oxygen Concentrators supplied to the four hospitals by the Rotary Club of Essendon have saved over the past 18 months in excess of 250,000 lives during the Covid 19 pandemic in Myanmar and continue to do so.

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Rotary Club Of Balwyn Centenary Grants - Bahay Tuluyan Project (Philippines)

Confirming RC Balwyn will make a grant of \$50,000 to the Rotary Club of Essendon and Leeton Central to assist with our Philippines project titled: Project Rainbow – Creating a Place of Healing for Child Survivors of Trauma.

The project will refurbish and equip an existing house to become a place for healing and recovery for children in need of special protection, 'Tala Camp and Eco-Retreat'. Bahay Tuluyan, a children's rights organization in the Philippines, works with children who have experienced abuse, violence, and neglect. It aims to help these children and their families to recover from their experiences so they can live happy, healthy lives.

Each year at least 500 children and youth access Bahay Tuluyan's various services. Bahay Tuluyan has been gifted a house on a 1-hectare property for its work with children and young people. Bahay Tuluyan's dream is to turn the property into a camp and eco-retreat where children and families can undergo healing and therapeutic activities. However, in order to be safe and appropriate for use the house needs to be refurbished and repaired. The refurbishment will repair leaks and add a multipurpose room, 4 bedrooms, 7 toilet/bathrooms, kitchen, dining room, meeting room, office and storage area. It will also repair/refresh 6 existing bedrooms and various other rooms.

The goal will be to create a sustainable, eco-friendly site that can accommodate up to 25 children or youth at a time for programs and activities to help them overcome trauma. It is anticipated that at least 200 people will be able to access and benefit from the property each year.

(Tony) De Fazio
Chair International Committee 2022/2023
Rotary club of Essendon

REPORT: Moonee Valley Art Show 2023- Report 21st February 2023

Preparations are well underway for the Moonee Valley Art Show 2023 at the Sport's Stadium at St Bernard's, West Essendon on the 19-21 st May this year

The Committee comprises:

Nola Spicer (Chair), Gerard Mahoney, David Dippie, Phil Obrien, Joanne Westover, Dennis Kosnar, Yvonne Osborn, Regina Davern. Chris Rundell and Terry Stivala.



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We have organised a joint Rotary meeting with East Keilor on Monday the 27th March at Windy Hill Bistro starting at 7.00pm. with both Club members attending and needing to register for catering purpose and selecting the room most suitable to hold the event.

Dr Michael Davis will be our guest speaker and the topic will be “St Bernard’s College, a community of Service since 1940” Michael, will explore the history of the college, its dedication to service to others and its future direction. This year is the 60th Anniversary of SBC being in West Essendon. Charlie Ryan, one of our bursary recipients and his mum, Melinda will be attending too.

We will be asking SBC Management if the other two recipients would like to join Charlie who would like to say thank you to all of us.

We are currently visiting other Secondary Schools, like St Columba’s on Monday at 12.30pm, Ave Maria, PEGS Rosehill etc and meeting with the Principals and Art co-ordinators and informing them of our Competition and asking them to advertise it in their school letter to inform all the Families. We have 16,000 students in a 5 kilometre radius in our area, so that is a lot of families getting MVAS information in their school’s newsletters.

The competition asks students to enter one piece of Artwork that complies with our nominated categories listed. Our Secondary Students Award categories for this year will be judged according to the best painting or picture in either oil, acrylic, watercolour, pastel or drawing.

There will be 3 prizes awarded for this category –

1st Prize - \$250

2nd Prize - \$150

3rd Prize - \$100.

Registration No. A0019046G | District 9800 | Chartered 1935 | ABN 91 036 600 532

Another major objective is securing Old and New Sponsors.

Currently I’m have discussion with Ryan’s Bus line and Gerard Mahoney is contacting Lin Fox.

Don’s Small goods will be giving us items to put in two Hampers for us to auction and Zedere Furniture have offered a piece for us to auction as well.

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Benny and Me Café have also agreed to sponsor us again by giving us vouchers.

Joanne has spoken to Jellis Craig Real Estate and received verbal Interest and Andrew Peace Wines sponsors have been sent a preliminary email which will be followed up next week.

Each committee member has been given an existing sponsor to contact and report back to the MVAS committee at our next meeting.

If anyone would like to give me the details of a new sponsor to follow up, please give me the contact's name and I will endeavour to send them information about the MVAS 2023. I'm pleased to report that everything is on track for a successful MVAS Exhibition and Fund-raising event.

Regards
Nola Spicer (2023 MVAS Chair).

Welfare update Vera

Vera thanked Maria Kouppas for stepping in as VP, during Shirley's absence.

Card sent to Lori and Tony Colichia

Card sent to Nick and Cathy Nicou

Welfare call made to Christine Hilbert – doing well and going on a cruise

Welfare call to Roger Leask

Shirley and Ray Kukk back from NZ – missed the cyclone

Welfare calls to Lisa Lowcock and offered help if needed

Welfare call to Veronica O'Sullivan whose father is undergoing medical treatment

An email sent to exchange student Allis Lilja on behalf of the club after the passing of her father.

President Vera closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending tonight to hear about the committee updates.

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Upcoming events

- [Club Meeting](#)
Windy Hill Mar 07, 2023
6:45 PM – 8:30 PM
- [MVCC Women's Leadership Program Event \(see below\)](#)
Clocktower Centre
Breakfast 6:45am – 8:30am March 8 2023
- [Caroline Chisholm Women's day lunch](#)
Buckley Park Bowls Club
12:00PM - 2:00 PM
- [DIK Open Day](#)
Shed 39 400 Somerville Rd West Footscray
Saturday 18 March – 10-3pm
- [Joint Club Meeting](#)
Mar 27, 2023 6:45 PM – 8:30 PM
- [Club Planning Event TBC](#)
Apr 01, 2023 10:00 AM
- [Charter night](#)
May 4 Royal Victorian Motor Yacht Club
- [International Rotary Convention](#)
27-31 May 2023 Melbourne

2023 Women's Leadership Program event.

Please see the invite from Moonee Valley City Council for the International Women's Day Breakfast on 8th March 2023.

The Mayoral Breakfast event is a part of the IWD celebrations.

The flyer is attached, information on panellists is below or at the website <https://mvcc.vic.gov.au/international-womens-day-mayoral-breakfast/>

Registrations through Eventbrite are [here](#).

To be held 6:45-8:30 Wednesday 8 March, at the Clocktower Centre.

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“To celebrate International Women’s Day in Moonee Valley, we will be holding our 12th Annual International Women’s Day Breakfast. This year we have an incredible lineup of inspiring women on our panel of speakers from diverse backgrounds and walks of life. Mayor Pierce Tyson will share his own personal stories and host the panel discussion. Our Moonee Valley City Council CEO, Helen Sui, will also MC the event.

Join us from 6:45 am for a delicious breakfast sourced from local eateries and connect with an incredible network of like-minded people. Network with female leaders in our community, and partake in a silent auction. Tickets to [The Clocktower’s show Fever](#), and [Incinerator Gallery’s Ceramic workshops](#) are some of the great products up for grabs. Hear our inspiring panellists talk about what gender equity means to them, and be a part of the celebrations. Our panel has been selected based on this year’s theme; ***DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality.***”

Kind Regards

Vera Maljevac President - 2022-2023 Rotary Club of Essendon

Women’s day lunch Caroline Chisholm Society



The flyer features a central white box with purple and blue accents. At the top, three women are illustrated with their arms raised. The text is centered and includes the event title, date, time, and details about the guest speaker and activities. The Caroline Chisholm Society logo is in the top right corner. At the bottom, there are silhouettes of people.

Join us to celebrate
Women's Day
Lunch!
Wednesday 8th March 12 - 2pm

This event includes:
Guest speaker - Jacinta D'Angelo
Motivational Speaker, Educator, Beauty & Fashion Lover
Delicious lunch at Buckley Park Bowls Club
Knitwear Stall and Raffle

Grab a group of friends or colleagues, get a table of 8 and hear more
about the work in your community.

Purchase your tickets online:
Raffle tickets can be purchased online or on the day
\$80 (incl lunch & a drink)

Caroline Chisholm Society