

# C O N T A C T

## **Rotary International Convention May 27- June 1 – personal snap shot**

Over 12000 delegates, representing over 120 countries, attended this Rotary International Convention; The top five registering countries in order were the USA, Australia, Japan, the Philippines, and Taiwan.

One of the most inspiring moments to this writer at least was the march of the flags, part of the opening general ceremony on Sunday May 28, as shown in the photo below.



In my opinion, the highlight of the convention's entertainment program was the excellent performance by The Tenors at the close of the Opening General Session. This vocal group of four showcased their highly skilled talents , closing with a very good version of Queen's Bohemian rhapsody.

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A memorable and at the same time challenging thought was offered in song by Gabi Moreno, singer songwriter : ‘sometimes nobody’s wrong’. In other words, we need to appreciate and respect the opinion of others, even when we may at first regard it as wrong or unworthy of serious consideration.

Another memorable African saying that was offered is this; ‘If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.’ As Rotarians I’m sure we can all see the wisdom of this age old advice.

Another early highlight came from Lehmah Gbowee, 2011 Nobel Peace Laureate and founder/ President of Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa. She observed that peace is not just the Absence of war, but it is the presence of dignity for all. She also declared that the spirit of collective humanity should drive what we do.

There were a range of break out sessions in the afternoons. These were all held at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre (MCC). Overall the convention program listed two hundred and seventy six presenters, although it is unlikely that they all presented.

One of the themes was Rotary and Indigenous Reconciliation in Australia. This session explained how a Rotaract Club and a Rotary Club in Australia are implementing a Reconciliation Action Plan that is endorsed by Reconciliation Australia. Rotarians can access the Reconciliation web site to see what other clubs have done vis a vis indigenous reconciliation.

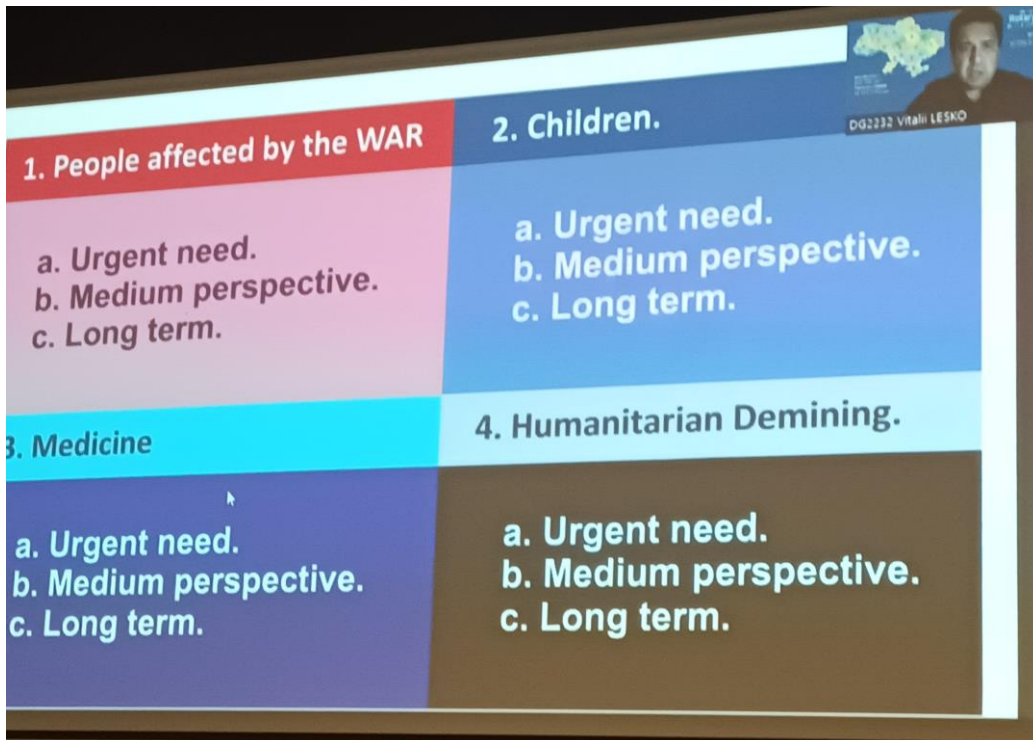
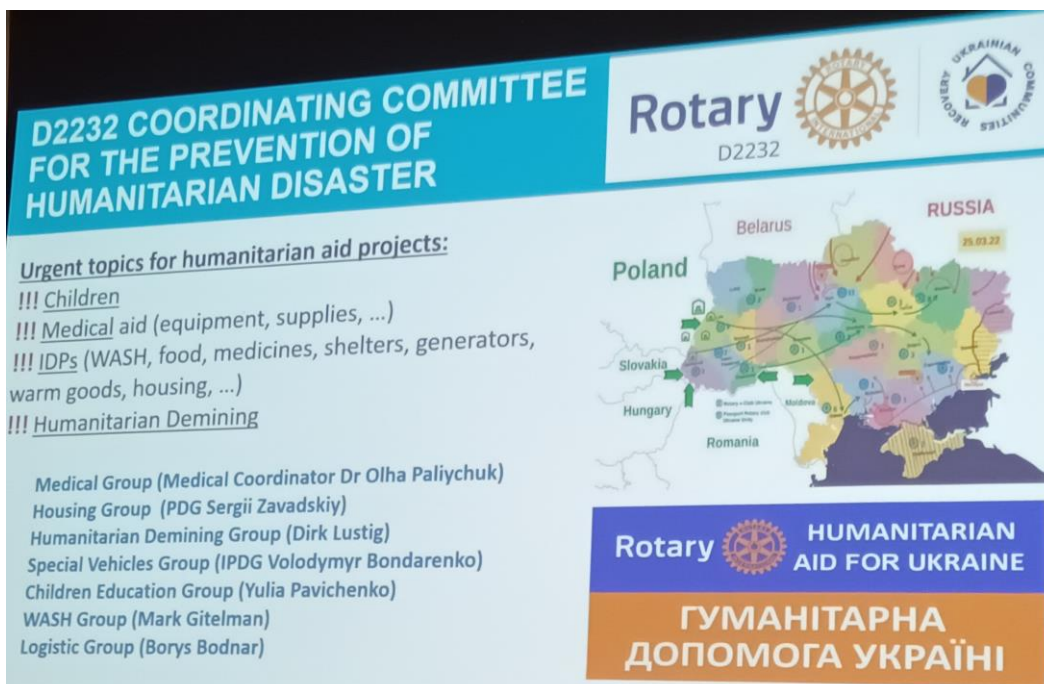
The break out session on May 31 on the Rotary Ukraine Update on Relief Efforts was both distressing and inspiring. Discussion centred on the main goals of recovery —as summarised in the following slide —and the service projects being led by the District Coordinating Committee for the prevention of humanitarian disasters in the Ukraine.

The cost of this enormous task runs into the tens, probably more likely hundreds of billions of US dollars and will take decades. An article in the ABC news by Shelton and Mann posted on 9 June 2023 even more disturbingly states that an often forgotten casualty is Ukraine’s natural environment, the impacts on which will also take decades to heal.

There were four speakers, all of Ukrainian descent. John Hewko, Rotary International General Secretary and Ukrainian born. His main point was to ask individual Rotarians to

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encourage their club / division to support the Ukrainian people and their country. RI District 2232 President Vital Lesko identified the main areas of urgent relief need.

**D2232 COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
FOR THE PREVENTION OF  
HUMANITARIAN DISASTER**

**Urgent topics for humanitarian aid projects:**  
 !!! Children  
 !!! Medical aid (equipment, supplies, ...)  
 !!! IDPs (WASH, food, medicines, shelters, generators, warm goods, housing, ...)  
 !!! Humanitarian Demining

Medical Group (Medical Coordinator Dr Olha Paliychuk)  
 Housing Group (PDG Sergii Zavadskiy)  
 Humanitarian Demining Group (Dirk Lustig)  
 Special Vehicles Group (IPDG Volodymyr Bondarenko)  
 Children Education Group (Yulia Pavichenko)  
 WASH Group (Mark Gitelman)  
 Logistic Group (Borys Bodnar)

**Rotary** D2232

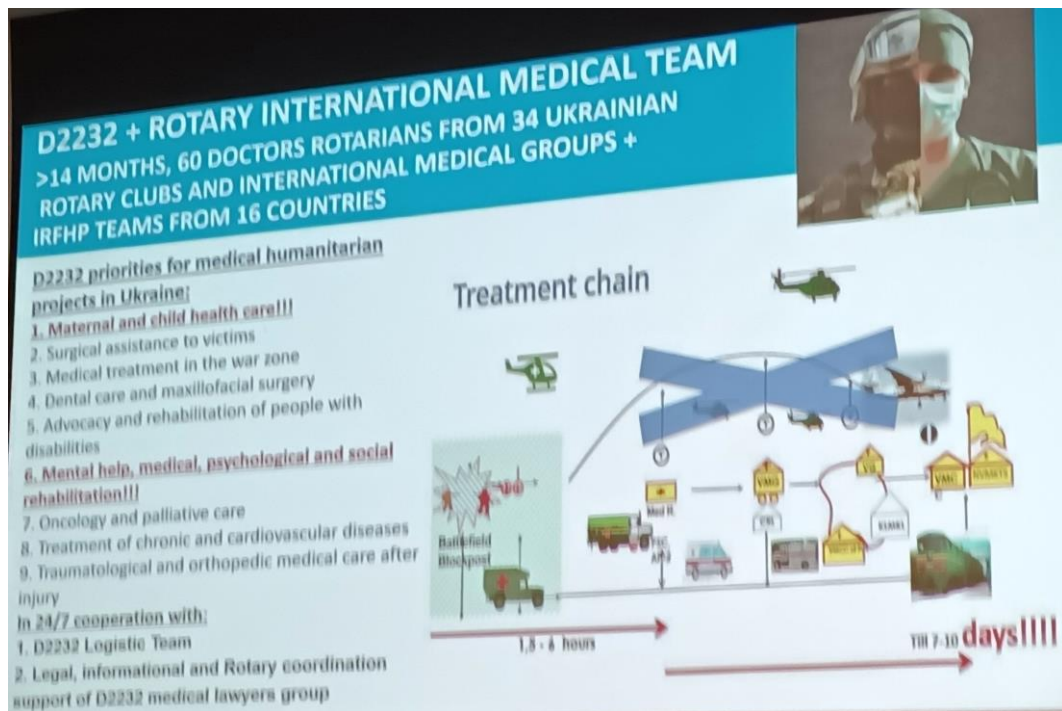
**Rotary** HUMANITARIAN AID FOR UKRAINE

**ГУМАНІТАРНА ДОПОМОГА УКРАЇНІ**



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Medical treatment and relief programs are understandably very high on the agenda, with the Rotary International Medical Team playing a critical role.



**D2232 + ROTARY INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL TEAM**  
 >14 MONTHS, 60 DOCTORS ROTARIANS FROM 34 UKRAINIAN ROTARY CLUBS AND INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GROUPS + IRFHP TEAMS FROM 16 COUNTRIES

**D2232 priorities for medical humanitarian projects in Ukraine:**

1. Maternal and child health care!!!
2. Surgical assistance to victims
3. Medical treatment in the war zone
4. Dental care and maxillofacial surgery
5. Advocacy and rehabilitation of people with disabilities
6. Mental help, medical, psychological and social rehabilitation!!!
7. Oncology and palliative care
8. Treatment of chronic and cardiovascular diseases
9. Traumatological and orthopedic medical care after injury

**In 24/7 cooperation with:**

1. D2232 Logistic Team
2. Legal, informational and Rotary coordination support of D2232 medical lawyers group

**Treatment chain**

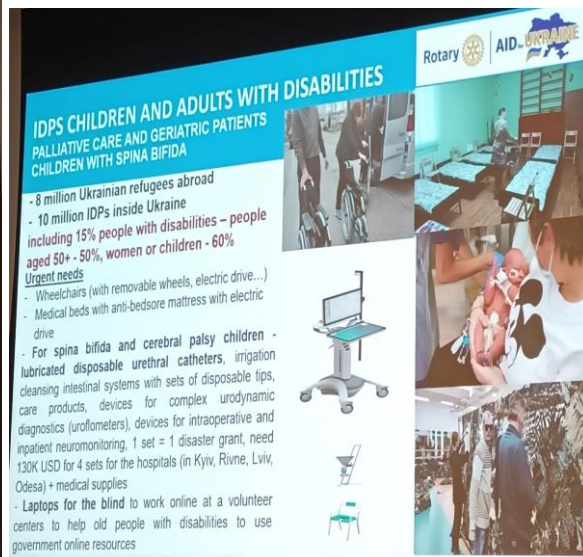
1.5 - 4 hours

7-10 days!!!



**1st PRIORITY SET OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR MATERNITY HOSPITALS AND PERINATAL CENTERS**

- Portable ultrasound machines (type of probes: phased array, linear, convex, trans vaginal) with a universal sensor for a smartphone or tablet
- Mobile baby incubators
- 1 disaster grant or donations = 2 mobile machines or 5 stationary pieces
- Neo Puff mobile ventilator (medical equipment for premature newborns)
- 1 disaster grant = 15 babies saved lives
- Baby stations for infusion with pumps
- 1 disaster grant = for 5 children beds
- Bilirubinometer
- Audiometer for newborns
- Vacuum delivery system Kiwi for providing medical assistance during childbirth



**IDPS CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES**  
 PALLIATIVE CARE AND GERIATRIC PATIENTS  
 CHILDREN WITH SPINA BIFIDA

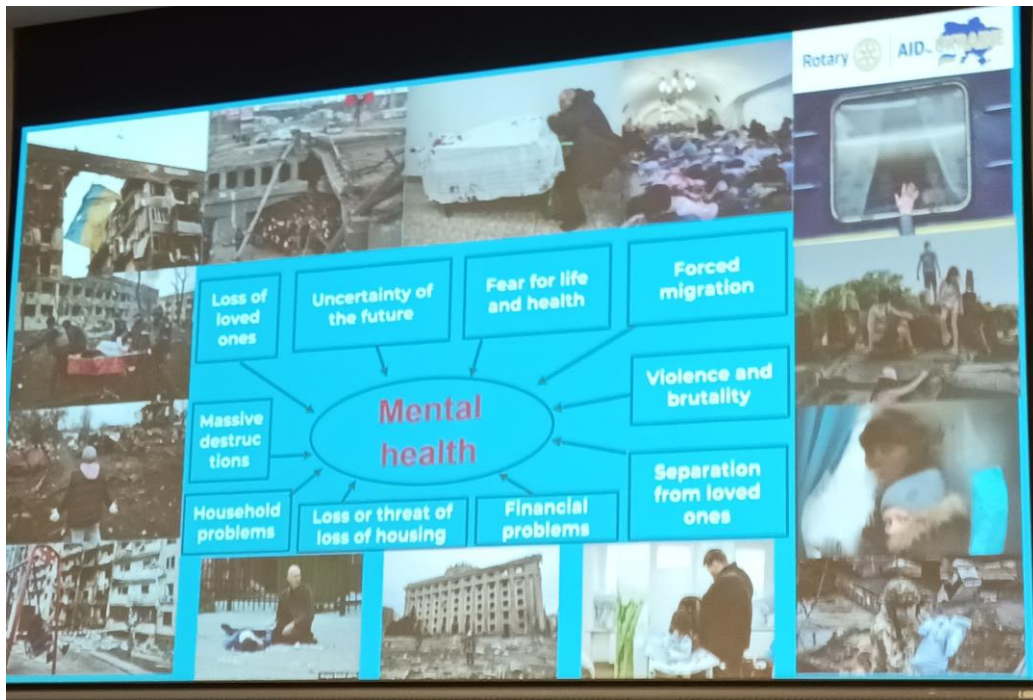
- 8 million Ukrainian refugees abroad
- 10 million IDPs inside Ukraine including 15% people with disabilities – people aged 50+ - 50%, women or children - 60%

**Urgent needs**

- Wheelchairs (with removable wheels, electric drive...)
- Medical beds with anti-bedsores mattress with electric drive
- For spina bifida and cerebral palsy children - lubricated disposable urethral catheters, irrigation cleansing intestinal systems with sets of disposable tips, care products, devices for complex urodynamic diagnostics (uroflometers), devices for intraoperative and inpatient neuromonitoring, 1 set = 1 disaster grant, need 130K USD for 4 sets for the hospitals (in Kyiv, Rivne, Lviv, Odesa) + medical supplies
- Laptops for the blind to work online at a volunteer centers to help old people with disabilities to use government online resources

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Mental health is another priority relief area.



Logistics is vital in all aspects of the relief effort.



**LOGISTICS**

D2232  
Rotary  
Ukraine

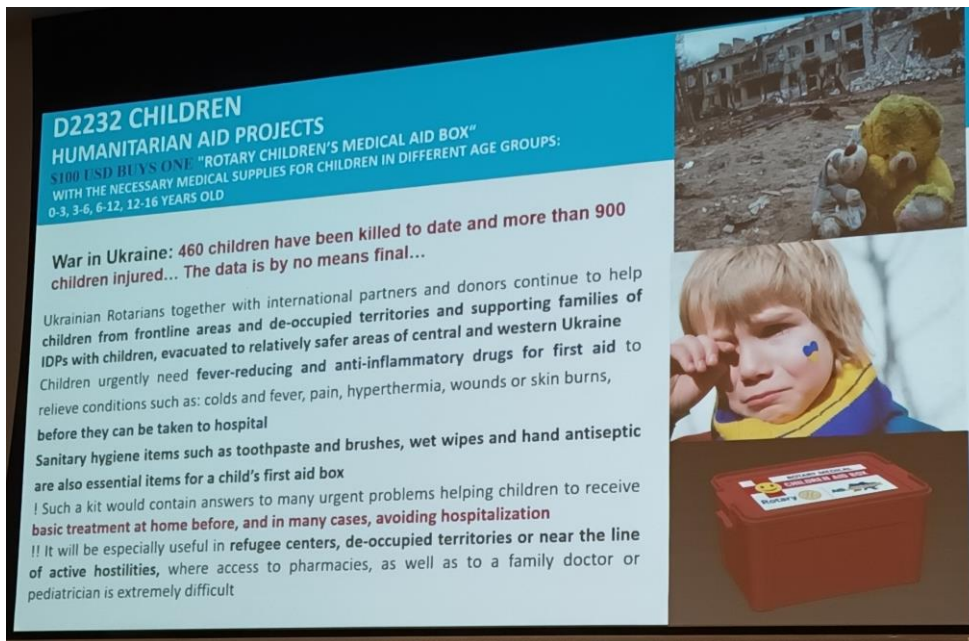
- Necessary component of providing humanitarian aid
- Availability and cost of supplies
- Cost of delivery
- Timing
- 12 Rotary Humanitarian Hubs inside Ukraine and on the Ukrainian borders (Poland, Romania, Slovakia, ...)

**ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF EFFECTIVE DELIVERY AND CLOSE-OUT OF DISASTER GRANTS**



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Especial care and relief is needed for Ukrainian children. This includes both medical aid and help with continuing children's education in war torn settings.



**D2232 CHILDREN HUMANITARIAN AID PROJECTS**  
\$100 USD BUYS ONE "ROTARY CHILDREN'S MEDICAL AID BOX"  
WITH THE NECESSARY MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR CHILDREN IN DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS:  
0-3, 3-6, 6-12, 12-16 YEARS OLD

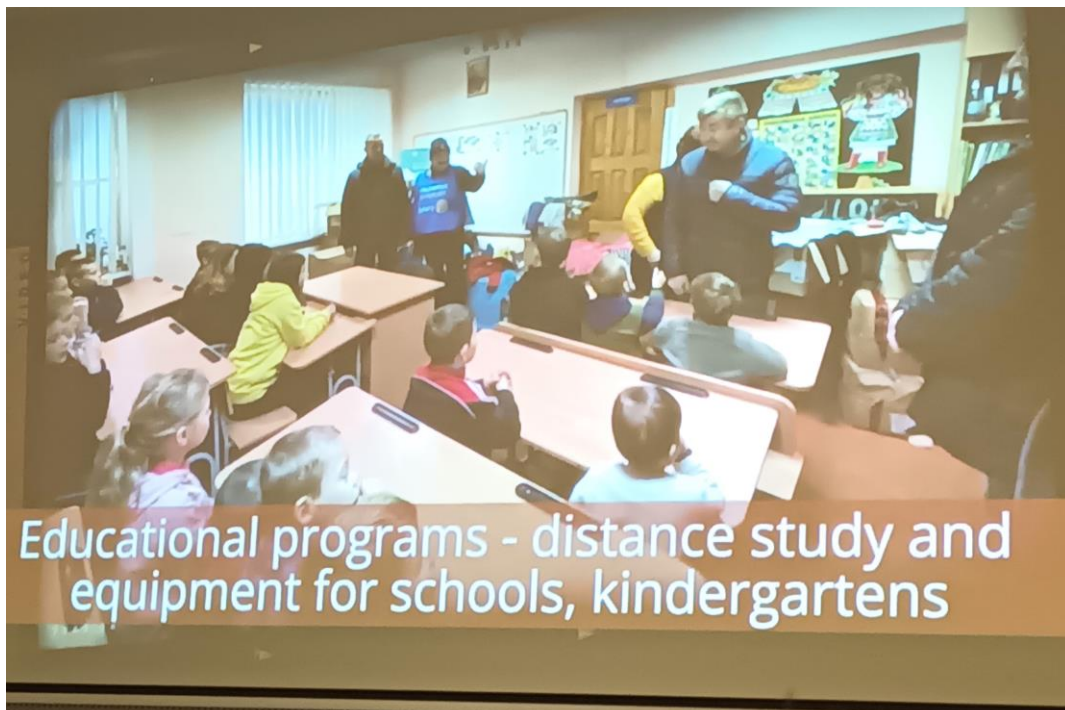
**War in Ukraine: 460 children have been killed to date and more than 900 children injured... The data is by no means final...**

Ukrainian Rotarians together with international partners and donors continue to help children from frontline areas and de-occupied territories and supporting families of IDPs with children, evacuated to relatively safer areas of central and western Ukraine. Children urgently need fever-reducing and anti-inflammatory drugs for first aid to relieve conditions such as: colds and fever, pain, hyperthermia, wounds or skin burns, before they can be taken to hospital.

Sanitary hygiene items such as toothpaste and brushes, wet wipes and hand antiseptic are also essential items for a child's first aid box.

! Such a kit would contain answers to many urgent problems helping children to receive basic treatment at home before, and in many cases, avoiding hospitalization.

!! It will be especially useful in refugee centers, de-occupied territories or near the line of active hostilities, where access to pharmacies, as well as to a family doctor or pediatrician is extremely difficult.



**Educational programs - distance study and equipment for schools, kindergartens**

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The final general session of the convention concluded with the 2023-24 RI President R. Douglas R. McNally outlining his plans and priorities for the next presidential year. President Gordon said he looks forward to working with members on building new style Rotary clubs and groups. Gordon among other roles is an ambassador for Bipolar UK. It is not surprising that President Gordon emphasises his and Rotary International's intent and capacity in working on both current and future mental health priorities .

President Gordon McNally aims to encourage RI members to actively become mental health champions . I his words, 'let us create hope in the world.'

One of the off-site events held in conjunction with the RI 2023 International convention was an evening at the Clocktower theatre, with entertainment provided by Silvie Paladins This photo shows the five Rotary Presidents from the cluster group with Silvie



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## **Greek restaurant evening May 29**

The Rotary club of Essendon hosted 12 members from the Rotary Club of Perth East and the Rotary Club of Colorado as part of the Rotary Convention in Melbourne. A sumptuous meal at Philhellene Greek Restaurant Moonee Ponds was to get to know our fellow Rotarians and pay tribute to Colin and Valerie Thornily who went out of their way to help and provide moral support to 2 of our members involved in a horrific life-threatening motor accident in remote Western Australia. Colin and Valerie were presented with a Royce Abbey Award for enthusiasm and commitment to the object of Rotary in helping our friends by Colin Thornilly of the Rotary Club of Perth East and committee member of the Royce & Jean Abbey Award. Amongst our guests were Bryan and Carolyne Cooke who come from a small club, the Greeley After Hours Rotary Club in Colorado USA but punch above the belt by raising thousands \$ for relief efforts over the world, including our recent Wagga floods in November 2022.





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## Save the Maribyrnong meeting June 6 2023

Michael Cariss welcomed all members and guests with a special warm welcome to President Vera.

President Vera acknowledged that we were meeting on the lands of the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation. We paid respect to their Ancestors and Elders, past, present, and emerging.

President Vera then welcomed the meeting's guest speaker, Dr Nicole Kowalczyk (Ecologist, Maribyrnong Officer, Education Manager MCC). President Vera noted that Andrew Panjkov will formally introduce her a little later.

President Vera then inducted three new members into RCE: John and Valmai Burns, and Deanhna Culshaw.



Valmai and John Burns have just transferred from the Woden Rotary Club in Canberra.

Valmai Burns has been appointed to the Youth Committee and Regina Davern has been appointed as her mentor. Valmai hoped her very fulfilling time in Rotary to date will continue into the future. Valmai has lots of experience working with youth, especially in the week of the Federal budget.

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John Burns is looking forward to joining his third Rotary club and noted that the Rotary Venture in Citizenship, aimed at introducing teenagers to our federal parliamentary system, is a great program.

The third inductee was Deanhna Culshaw. Deanhna is a vocational support advance officer. Her club mentor is Dr. Peter Condos. In accepting the induction Deanhna noted that she has been made to feel very welcome and appreciated members sharing her journey. Elderly people could be helped to learn to walk with appropriate aids.



Andrew Panjkov then introduced Dr Nicole Kowalczyk, an ecologist who presented on the care and development of Maribyrnong River in her role with the Maribyrnong Rivers and Waterways Association.

Dr Nicole Kowalczyk notes that the Maribyrnong runs about 130 kilometres to the city of Melbourne, and is sourced from the meeting of the Deep Creek and Jackson Creek on slopes of Mount Macedon.



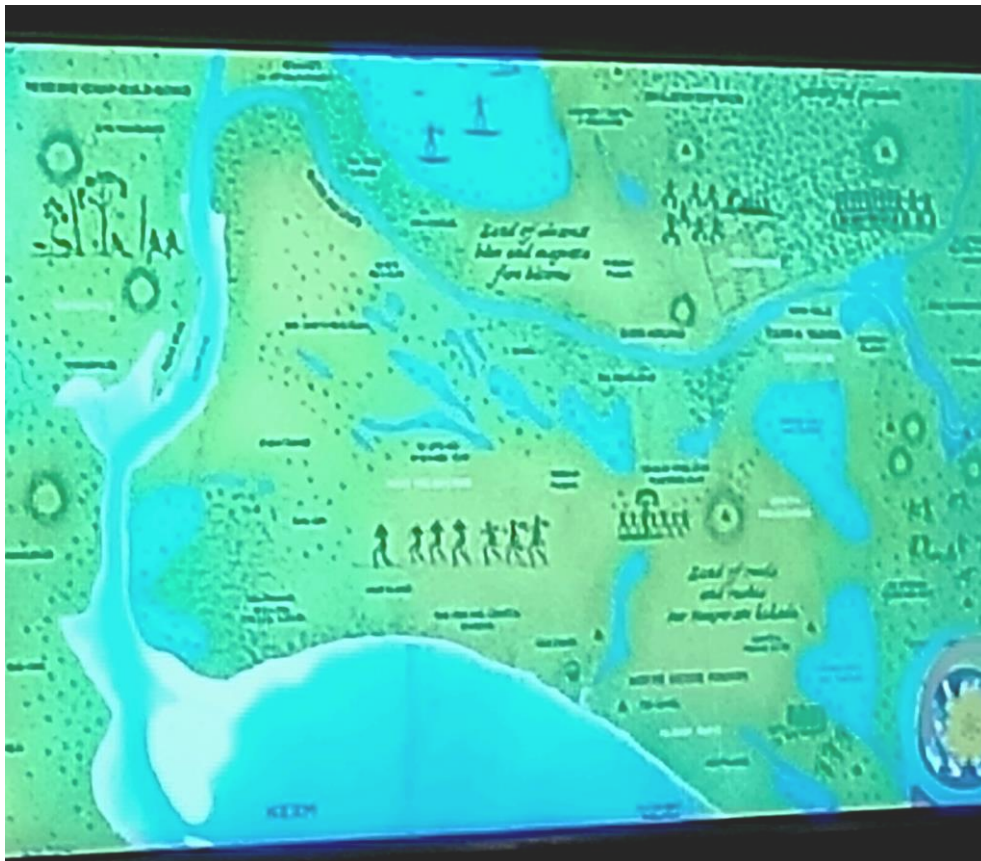


IMAGINE  
ROTARY

Rotary  
Club of Essendon



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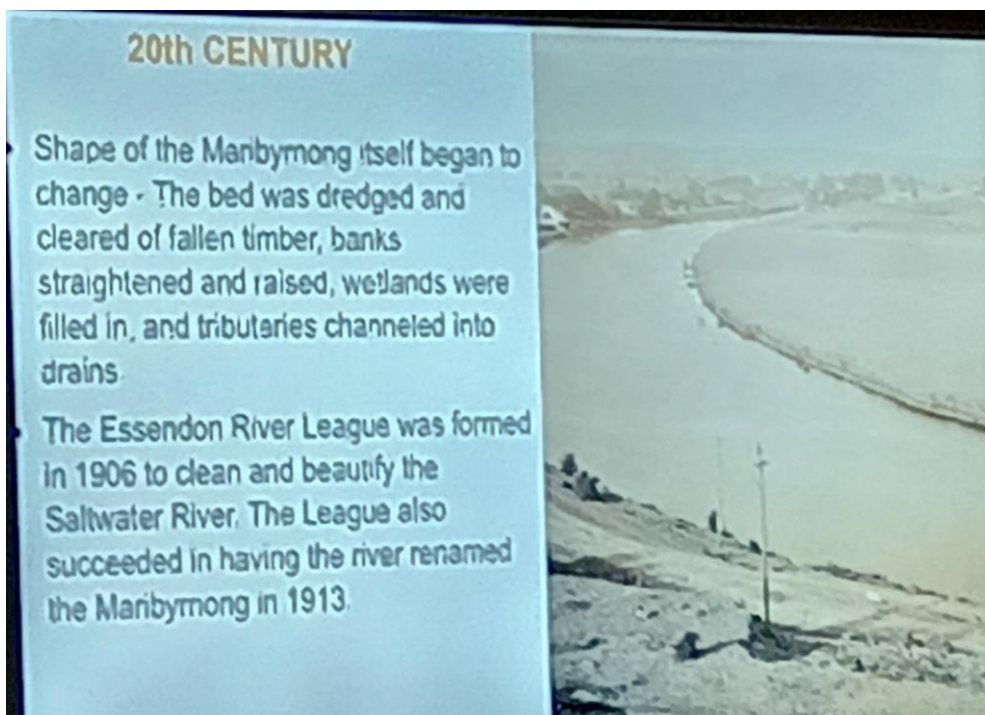
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John Batman noted in a journal entry in the middle of 1836 that the river's soil was rich, but treeless. He noted a profusion of quails flying 'at one time, quite a cloud.' John Batman noted a large lagoon at the upper end of the marsh. This lagoon was 'full of ducks, geese & c. After crossing this marsh, we passed through tea tree scrub very high and thick.'

Dr. Nicole noted that the Maribyrnong River has been home to the Wurundjeri people for over 40,000 years. Thousands of cultural sites have been recorded. Fertile soil and a large permanent river would have increased biodiversity. The land and waters of this region continue to hold spiritual and cultural significance to the Kulin nations.

The nineteenth century saw big but detrimental changes to the Maribyrnong. Rapid industrialisation created foul air, and filthy rivers, sometimes bright red in colour.

A similar degradation happened in the early twentieth century. As noted in the slide below the newly formed Essendon River League took remedial steps, including having the River renamed in 1913. Dr. Nicole noted that this River League undertook a huge tree planting program.





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Today, Dr. Nicole noted that the local community has expressed concerns about various aspects of the river. These concerns have formed the basis of the Maribyrnong strategic plan prepared by the Maribyrnong Rivers and Waterways Association. .

The plan's Vision:

*The Maribyrnong River and surrounding waterways are care for, respected and protected for the well-being and survival of all communities that rely on them.*

The Association's purpose:

*We advocate for greater commitment and investment in protecting and restoring waterways in the Maribyrnong catchment.*

Dr Nicole Kowalczyk informed that a web site is about to be launched, thanks to the support of many funders.

The final part of Dr. Nicole's presentation was a very informative fifteen minute video on the Maribyrnong Rive and related waterways.

A lively question and answer session followed before Andrew Panjkov wrapped the session up with a big thank you to Nicole and a small token of RCE's esteem.

Our wellness officer Maria is still unwell as is Peter Condos. Eleanor and Tony de Fazio are also not feeling well, nor is Kerry Roe. Hopefully all will have speedy recoveries.

President Vera noted that there were six International Convention attendees: John Odgers, Nola Spicer, Michael Portelli, Tony de Fazio, Steve Roe , and President Vera

Peter Condos will present a Bunnings BBQ report at the next meeting.

President Vera reminded those in attendance of the President's and Changeover Night at Windy Hill on Friday 23 June . Please book with President Vera ASAP.

President Vera's Quote of the day:

*Winners are not people who never fail but people who never quit.*

President Vera's closing words: Good evening and stay warm during the Winter season (while I escape the cold for two months)

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## Upcoming events

- [Presidents Night](#)  
Windy Hill  
Jun 23, 2023  
6:00 PM – 11:00 PM
- [Presidents agenda 2023/24](#)  
Windy Hill  
Jul 04, 2023  
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- [Maintain your healthy body](#)  
Windy Hill  
Jul 18, 2023  
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Strathmore **Community Bank**<sup>®</sup> Branch



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# C O N T A C T

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF ESSENDON'S

## **PRESIDENT'S / CHANGEOVER NIGHT** *A night of celebration*

**FRIDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE | 6-11PM**

\$75 per head for a 3 course meal | Drinks at bar prices  
Windy Hill, Corner Napier Street and Brewster Street, Essendon: Premiers Room

Come along to see our outgoing President Vera become a feather duster and Michael take up the baton as our 89th Club President.

All guests, friends and relatives are welcome to come along to celebrate the achievements of both presidents and enjoy a night of fellowship, frivolity and fun.

**BOOK YOUR TICKETS**

