

C O N T A C T

Club meeting 16/04/2024

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

Rotary International Theme April 2024. Environmental Month

From our President...

Pres. Michael welcomed everyone including guest speaker Bill Anderson and his wife Elva, Kerry Roe, Peter Baker's extended family – daughter Kate, son-in-law Jamie and grandchildren Leo and Rose, Sally Armstrong from RC Macedon Ranges and Raj from Nepal, an R & J Abbey Vocational Scholar sponsored by RC Bordertown S.A.

Michael mentioned volunteering opportunities coming up at WERN which Vera is promoting.

Peter Condos gave a quick presentation on interaction with the Clubrunner app.

Veronica talked briefly about the 7 and 18 May planning days which are vital to our Club's future. Veronica also mentioned an email which is to be sent to all members encouraging the sourcing of sponsors for the October Art Show.

Sally Armstrong then spoke about the R & J Abbey Vocational Scholarship and how pleased her Club was to be involved in the program. Her Club was chartered in 2019 and regrettably is about to hand in their charter. In 2019 RC Macedon Ranges partnered with RC Kathmandu in providing a maternal and child health project. Raj then spoke briefly about his involvement with Rotary (Joined Rotaract 2008, President 2014-15, joined RC Kathmandu 2016). Has partnered with clubs from D9800 including Balwyn and Bendigo providing many toilet blocks in rural schools. Founded 'Solidarity Nepal' as a 17-year-old in 2008

<https://solidaritynepal.org/home.html>

President Michael exchanged Club banners with Raj.

Peter Baker's wellness report:

A condolence card was sent to Anne Rogers on the passing of her mother.

Peter's partner Pam rolled her ankle at the end of the Bendigo District Conference and is in a moon boot for the next six weeks.



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Peter also thanked Kerry Roe for her organisation of accommodation and fine dining during the conference.

Peter then introduced his long-time friend, neighbour and tonight's guest speaker, **Bill Anderson**. Peter and Bill were scout leaders together, an activity which followed Bill's return from Vietnam.

After his number came up in the conscription ballot, Bill completed training under the National Service Scheme and

sailed to Vung Tau aboard HMAS Sydney. Bill was a member of 7 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (7 RAR) based at Nui Dat in Phuoc Tuy Province, south east of Ho Chi Minh City (then Saigon).

Bill was a radio operator, a function he performed in company headquarters and on active patrols. Australian camps allowed the consumption of alcohol, although soldiers were rationed – 2 cans per day, per man, perhaps! The ration was cumulative and many extended parties were held after lengthy patrols. His tour encompassed Christmas 1968 and the army cooks did their best to provide a suitable meal on the day.



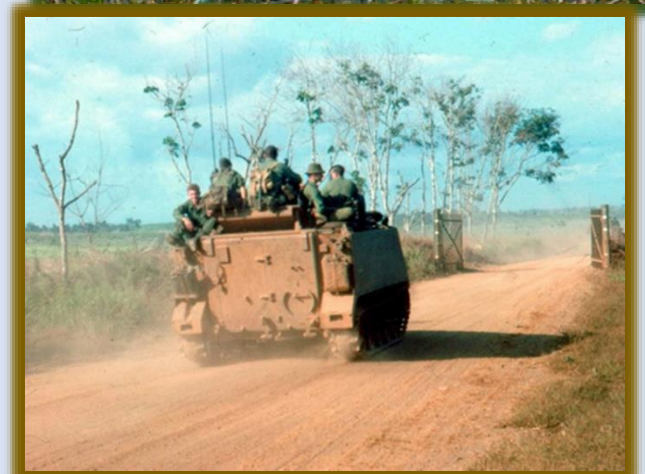
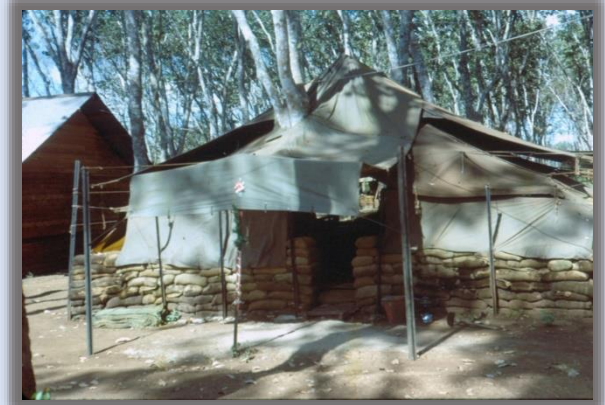
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Rest and Recreation (R & R) was valued by the soldiers and they often had a choice of destination.

Bill chose Sydney, flying out of Saigon on a Pan Am B707, followed by a flight to Melbourne with TAA (his former employer) to see his fiancé, Elva. It was a quick trip lasting a total of five days – including flying time – and he was back out on patrol the day after arriving back at his unit.

Bill completed a 12-month, 15-day tour from April 1967 to April 1968 including 10 days each way on the ship. During this tour, 7 RAR lost 16 soldiers killed in action while another 124 were wounded.

After arriving home on the Sydney, the troops were given train tickets to continue their travel. However, Bill's ticket was made out to Broadmeadow NSW (near Newcastle), not Broadmeadows VIC. Some quick footwork saw that corrected and he was soon enjoying a long-awaited reunion.



Despite some difficult times, Bill thoroughly enjoyed his Vietnam experience, although several subsequent battles with the Department of Veteran's Affairs have not been quite as memorable.

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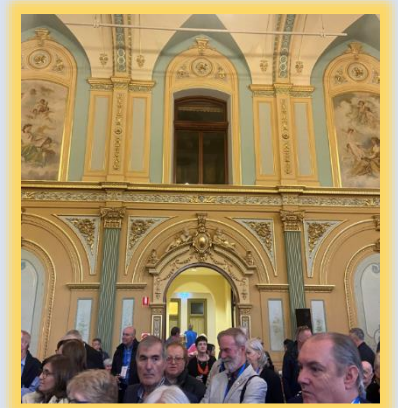
SOME SNIPPETS FROM THE D9800 DISTRICT CONFERENCE HELD IN BENDIGO 12-14/04/2024



The conference was opened in the most amazing town hall the Ed. has ever seen. A beautiful heritage building in the middle of Bendigo.

David Mann (yes, THE Mann about town for those who listen to 3AW) was our MC for the entire conference and did an incredible job. Who he doesn't know or hasn't met is worth knowing or meeting. We were

welcomed by the Mayor Cr Andrea Metcalf, a local indigenous leader welcomed us to country and gave us a magnificent performance playing the didgeridoo and DG Ron Payne promised us a great weekend ahead.



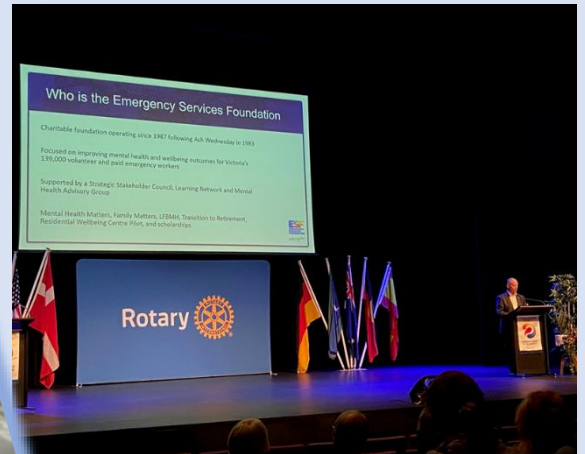
COSTA GEORGIODIS (Maria's cousin apparently...) FROM GARDENING AUSTRALIA helped us to realise that we are our own advertising brand and walking billboard. What we do and say tells our story and that we as Rotarians need to do this all of the time so others know about the great things we do. Costa was very generous with his time and is a total pocket rocket, passionate about what he does and a great story teller.



He also loved that the ladies from Essendon were real go getters when we asked him to have a photo with all of us together.



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There was a great variety of speakers.

Topics and speakers ranged from Murray Verso updating us on the state of Polio to Bev Watson who is a polio survivor telling us about her life living with polio. Lucienne Heyworth who told us about her experiences working around the world in the efforts of peace and humanitarian aid and providing education to children living in areas of conflict. Her experience as a Rotary Peace Fellow gave her a great boost to help her in some of the most dangerous places on earth.

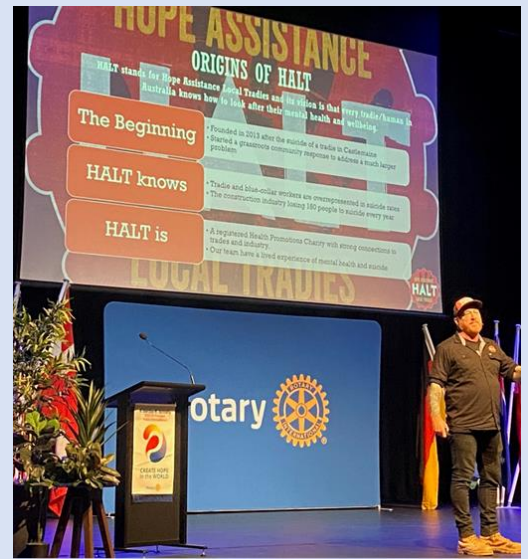
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Despite some initial argy bargy between the Carlton and Adelaide supporters, the talk from the Peace Scholar must have made an impact and all was good in the end.



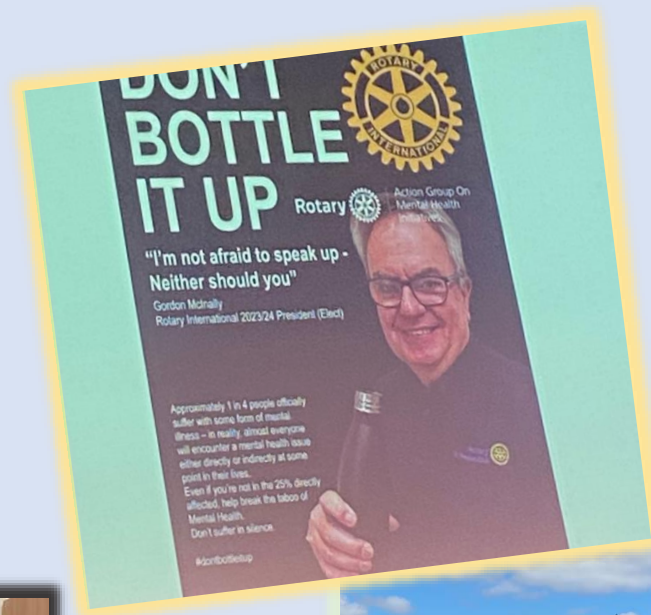
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This week it was Denis Kosnar's turn to win the bottle of wine.

Did you know...



The beautiful parklands of Bendigo were a joy for the beautiful women of RCE to wander around

BUT JUST REMEMBER...

Don't mess with da boyz from Essendon!

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Coming up soon...

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

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

We would like to thank our official sponsors;

Proudly supported by

**Strathmore
Community Bank Branch**

 **Bendigo Bank**

Interested in being a sponsor?

[Download the website sponsorship guide](#)

Tuesday May 07, 2024 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm [Forward Planning - with Tony & Veronica](#)

Tuesday May 21, 2024 7:00 pm - 10 pm [Charter Night](#)

Tuesday Jun 04, 2024 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm [club meeting](#)

Friday Jun 21, 2024 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm [Presidents Night](#)

Tuesday Jul 02, 2024 [Presidents Changeover](#)