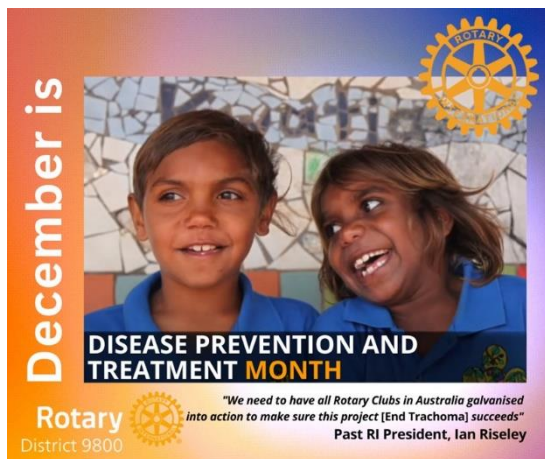


C O N T A C T

Club meeting 19/12/2023

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



Rotary International Theme December 2023. Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

We as Rotarians strive to educate and equip communities to stop the spread of life-threatening diseases like polio, HIV/AIDS, and malaria. We improve and expand access to low-cost and free health care in developing areas.

We as members of the Rotary Club of Essendon have recently completed a project which epitomises the commitment we have to disease prevention and treatment.

Use this link to see our project article in the most recent edition of the District 9800 Networker Newsletter [Tackling Disease](#)

[Prevention & Saving the Environment - Topped off with Big New Smiles! | District 9800](#)

rotarydistrict9800.org.au You will be proud to be a part of a club that can achieve great things such as this project.

From our President...

President Michael Portelli was accompanied by PP Sunil Perera in attending the recent end of year “Let’s Celebrate” event for the Australian Rotary Health Indigenous Health Scholars. They were thrilled to meet some of the current scholars and participating sponsor club members who expanded on what they were studying, how their studies will help their communities and the impact they will have on improving the health and lives of our indigenous communities.

This was very important as the Norm Mollica Mental Health Fund will be selecting two scholars to receive sponsorship in 2024. The committee is committed to conducting thorough research prior to selecting the scholars to receive our club support.



C O N T A C T

And being the social butterfly that he is our President was also seen enjoying some delicious pizzas – freshly made on site, sandwiches and CWA scones and slices at the Strathmore Men’s Shed last Saturday with the Sheddies, their families and friends, Rotarians from Essendon, Essendon North and Strathmore who manage the Shed and City of Moonee Valley Councillors, Mayor Pierce Tyson, Deputy Mayor Narelle Sharp and Cnr Ava Adams, who were all there to enjoy the Christmas BBQ. Chair of the Committee of Management, Rod Gurry, thanked all involved in the management of the Shed, especially those who have taken on extra responsibilities as facilitators.

Such is the success of the Shed that there is now a waiting list to join. The Shed is open four days a week and currently has 80 enthusiastic members making it one of the most active sheds anywhere.

At right Pres. Michael with councillors Sharpe and Adams and our Pres. Elect Tony DeFazio.

Below Chair Rod Gurry with facilitators Rod McLeod and Steve Holman as well as the Mayor and councillors addressing the big group at the BBQ.



C O N T A C T



Couldn't get your pizza any fresher than this! And wow were they delicious.

The magnificent raffle prizes all hand made by the Sheddies.

And from our committees...

Many Thanks to the Club Services Committee who arranged a fabulous Christmas dinner and dancing at Windy Hill. With traditional Christmas fare – including a retro prawn cocktail with a modern twist - followed by some 'Classic' dance moves – or should we call them 'vintage' – there was fun and laughter a plenty as the band rocked on throughout the night. Platform 5 knew all our favourite hits and there was no shortage of feet on the dance floor and voices joining in with the band.



C O N T A C T



C O N T A C T

It was great to see so many members with family and friends as well as some past members who we are so pleased to have visit the club again. To all who organised the evening and those who made it great by attending we say thank you and Merry Christmas.



C O N T A C T

Vale:

Don Knee (19-11-31 to 11-12-23)

Don was sponsored to join the Rotary Club of Essendon by Ray Landgren (of Landgren Shoes) and joined the club on 6th March 1979. He enjoyed the great fellowship of the Rotarians which included many business associates from the local area such as the Norm and Maurice Mollica, Jack Honson, Roger Leask, Michael Cariss, Roger Priestley, and Royce Abbey.

Over many years in The Rotary Club of Essendon the role which Don enjoyed and was cherished by many in the Rotary family was playing Santa Claus at the clubs Christmas party. This role he was happy to do for over 20 years and a role which best suited his cheerful disposition and happy outlook. During his time in Rotary Don had been on most committees and held a number of Board positions including Community Chair and Fellowship Chair.

Don was very active with Youth Exchange with Essendon Rotary and hosted many exchange students from various countries including South Africa, America, Brazil, Japan and Germany. In his later years Don also travelled to Myanmar twice with Rotary Club of Essendon's delegations to that country.

Don travelled to the USA in 1988 with a group of Essendon Rotarians to celebrate the induction of Royce Abbey AO DCM when he became World President of Rotary International.

Don loved the Rotary Club of Essendon for the fellowship, the community involvement, the giving back to those less fortunate and "getting things done" attitude for which Essendon Rotary is renown.

Don was awarded a PHF in 1999 by PP Peter Condos.

He was given an honorary membership by the then president Kelly Abfalder.

He remained an active member for as long as possible before deciding that Probus was more in keeping with his age.

His contribution to Rotary was great and he always kept the Rotary motto from 1988 on his desk "Put Life into Rotary, Your Life".

The members of the Rotary Club of Essendon offer our sincere condolences to the Knee family.



C O N T A C T

Did you know...



Project Rainbow
Creating a Place of Healing for Child Survivors of Trauma

Project Rainbow

Project Rainbow will convert a dilapidated house in Lipa Bazarigas into a retreat and place of recovery for children. It will repair and upgrade the existing structure to provide accommodation, dining and meeting spaces for up to 25 people at a time.

The house and lot were donated to Bahay Tuluyan by a generous local family.

Through the project Bahay Tuluyan will convert the house and surroundings into 'Tala Camp and Eco-Retreat', a safe place for children, youth and families to access programs and activities that will aid their recovery from various forms of trauma. Bahay Tuluyan will use its experience in organic farming to produce organic fruit, vegetables, honey, pepper and coffee to help sustain the operations of the camp in the longer term.



At least 500 children every year will be supported to heal and recover from the impacts of trauma and grow into happy, healthy, resilient people with brighter futures.

Bahay Tuluyan is a DSWD-accredited NGO with 35 years of experience working with Filipino children.




Project Rainbow



Final Report
December 2023



3 of the 6 new bathrooms that have been installed. All bedrooms now have their own bathrooms. Additional septic tanks and water tank have been installed to cater for the greater demand.



Left: one of the refurbished bedrooms in the main building. New windows have been added, as well as a bathroom. The room has been refitted and repainted.




Project Rainbow



Final Report
December 2023

Ready for use

- ✓ New multipurpose room with entrance stairs
- ✓ 4 new bedrooms
- ✓ 6 new bathrooms
- ✓ 6 refurbished bedrooms
- ✓ 3 refurbished bathrooms
- ✓ 1 new kitchen
- ✓ 1 new meeting room
- ✓ Refurbished stairs
- ✓ Outdoor balcony area
- ✓ 3 new septic tanks



Above - the old chapel, with destroyed roof, has been converted into a meeting room



It's always wonderful when we see a project successfully completed. Project Rainbow is a part of Bahay Tuluyan in the Philippines, an organisation with which we have had a long association. We have supported their work improving the lives of the most vulnerable children in Manila for many years and we are proud to be a part of this new building and property which will be utilised in the care of the children.

This new facility which is now named the "Tala Camp and Eco-Retreat" is to be a safe place for children, youth and families to access programs and activities which will aid their recovery from various forms of trauma. The first camp is scheduled for January 2024.

Bahay Tuluyan will use its experience in organic farming to produce organic fruit, vegetables, honey, pepper and coffee to help sustain the operations of the camp in the longer term. Well done to all involved.



Project Rainbow



Final Report
December 2023





The exterior of the main building, showing newly built bathrooms (entrances) and renovations and repairs to facade including installation of decorative stone, and native capiz windows



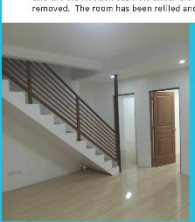




C O N T A C T


 **Project Rainbow**

 **Final Report**
December 2023


Below - the railings on the internal stairs were replaced and the old wooden cabinets under the stairs were removed. The room has been retiled and repainted.






Above - native Filigree 'capit' windows, made from shells, have been installed throughout the building to maintain the original native 'farmhouse motif'.



Left - sink has been installed in the newly created kitchen as well as a pass through window.



 **Project Rainbow**

 **Final Report**
December 2023



Project Complete! We are very excited to share the news that our Project Rainbow has been completed. Construction of the building is now done and all facilities have been turned over. The whole facility has had a very significant facelift and now provides a very inviting environment for the camps and retreats it has been set up to provide. A number of camps and retreats have already been scheduled for 2024, with the first use to take place in January 2024.

Project Rainbow is primarily being sponsored by a Centennial Grant from the Rotary Club of Adelaide, with the assistance of the Rotary Clubs of Essendon and Leeton Centre.

 **Project Rainbow**

 **Final Report**
December 2023

Right - one of the new bedrooms. This room was previously an unused area in the basement. It is now a small room with bathroom.




Left - the refurbished downstairs living area. Some old pillars were removed and the room has been repainted & retiled.



Right - part of the outdoor balcony area overlooking the farm.



Report prepared by Bahay Tuluyan
12 December 2023
For further information -
info@bahaytuluyan.org



The last meeting of the 2023 year was as is tradition a breakfast meeting.

The highlight was the presentation to long time member Fong Loong an Honorary Membership of the Rotary Club of Essendon.

Fong joined the club on 13th December 1988 and was President in 1996-97. During that year the club raised approx. \$33,500.00 with the Footy Show Stall at the Royal Melbourne Show raising \$16,000.00 alone.

Donations were made to a variety of causes including \$5000.00 towards a BBQ in the Essendon Community Playground, \$5000.00 towards a Rotatank project in Papua New Guinea and \$2000.00

towards the intensive care unit in a hospital in Sri Lanka. The club hosted two exchange students, one from Brazil and one from Japan. Fong is always very generous with his donations via Coffex and we thank him for his ongoing commitment to Rotary.

C O N T A C T

Coming up soon... 2024

- **Tuesday 16 January**, Combined meeting with Strathmore Rotary Club Windy Hill Function Centre
- **Wednesday 07 February** Membership/marketing committee meeting 7:30pm Peter Halaseh's house.
- **Wednesday 7th February 2024** Movie Night at the beautiful Palace Cinemas Pentridge Coburg More details coming soon
- **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.
- **12-14 April District 9800 Conference** See link below to register for this event. We have a big group going so join us for a fun and informative but mostly fun weekend.
- **Club Meeting ANZAC Bill Anderson** Tuesday 23rd April 2024



Rotary
District 9800
Bendigo Conference
12-14th April 2024

Earlybird bookings are now open

Rotarian, Partners & Friends:	\$340
First-time attendee:	\$250
Rotaractor:	\$150
Foundation Breakfast:	\$40

Book now at: www.trybooking.com/CMCUD

GATHERING ON THE GOLDFIELDS

BENDIGO



[Rotary D9800 Conference 2024 Tickets, Ulumbarra Theatre, Bendigo | TryBooking Australia](#)

[BEST PRAWN COCKTAIL I'VE HAD SINCE 1975!!!](#)

C O N T A C T

You and your family and friends are invited to visit us at an upcoming meeting
<https://www.rce.org.au/Events>

Proudly supported by
**Strathmore
Community Bank** Branch
 **Bendigo Bank**

We meet every first and third Tuesday of the month at the Windy Hill Venue Essendon.

You are always welcome. Contact us via our website for more details. <https://www.rce.org.au/>

We would like to thank our official sponsors;
Interested in being a sponsor?

[Download the website sponsorship guide](#)



*MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OF OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS.
MAY YOU ALL ENJOY PEACE & JOY AND HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY NEW YEAR.*