

C O N T A C T

Club meeting 20/02/2024

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

Rotary International Theme February 2024. Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month

From our President...

Welcome to all from Pres. Michael Portelli especially visiting Rotarian Peter Duras.



GUEST SPEAKER TONIGHT; NOLA SPICER
MYANMAR DELEGATION REPORT

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MYANMAR/BURMA

- An independent nation
- 1824 to 1948 Great Britain ruled Burma (Myanmar)
- Burma gained independence on January 4, 1948.
- In 1950 the initial Government saw assassinations then stability
- For 12 years there was huge economic growth
- 1962 Military took power under General Ne Win.
- Economy was ruined under this socialist rule.
- Myanmar became isolated from the rest of the world.

- Military Government remained for nearly 50 years – “Democratic” elections held in 2014. Government lasts 10 years - 2021 Military took control again they remain in power



HOPE FOR MYANMAR CHILDRENS HOME

Our club has supported the home for many years.

It was great to hear our little truck is still going strong and driving in and out of the home on the road that our club funded.

Over \$1000 was used to purchase much appreciated rice, other foodstuffs and a variety of items the children need such as mosquito nets. All of these are purchased in country so the appropriate items are bought and the local economy is bolstered.

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This photo on the left shows the road constructed for the Hope for Myanmar Children Home with funds from the RC Essendon.



STEP-IN STEP-UP is one of the newer projects that we are supporting. Vulnerable children are given training to enable them to gain meaningful employment in legitimate hospitality venues. They learn to be baristas, do the housework, train in child care and learn English. Our club provided solar lights to families so the children of all ages can study at any hour. Most homes in the slums in this area have no access or affordability to have electricity connected. Richard and Nola participated in conversational English with students training to work in hospitality to give them experience in dealing with customers complaints and queries.



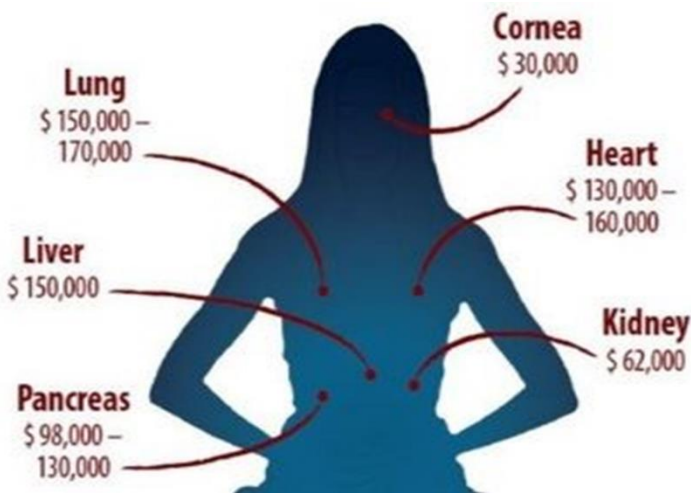
Is this new Grandpa finally learning how to change a nappy?



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RCE Myanmar Projects 2023

SCOT Project : Stop Child Organ Theft



YOU CAN SUPPORT The SCOT Project
STOP CHILD ORGAN THEFT

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

RAWCS - Rotary Overseas Aid Fund

Here's the link to our website and how to donate

<https://www.stopchildorgantheft.com/>

YANGON GENERAL HOSPITAL AND YANGON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

We have helped thousands of people over the last 23 years by donating much needed basic equipment and consumables to both the Yangon General Hospital and the Yangon Children's Hospital.

We have ensured that every piece of equipment is utilised and maintained for many years by having an annual delegation to maintain a connection with the staff and discuss with them the greatest needs at that time so we can plan for future donations.

We all know that many children in countries who live in poverty are open to abuse in many forms. Families struggling to feed, clothe and educate their children are convinced by unscrupulous people to give up their children – or receive payment for their children – believing that their children will be given education and care and a wonderful future that their family can't. Sadly, this is never true.

One of the most sickening situations is where children are bought to be used as a source of organs which are purchased through an intermediary by those who can afford to buy an organ to transplant to another person in an overseas country.

The organs of one child can be sold for up to US\$350,000.00 which makes this a lucrative business for people who have absolutely no conscience or soul.



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Visiting Rotarian – and past club member – Peter Duras explained the beginning of our relationship with the hospitals in Yangon. The first piece of medical equipment taken there was a defibrillator and then a blood analyser which could detect which type of dengue fever a child was presenting with to ascertain whether they needed urgent intensive care or could go home with medication. The hospital provides very little to zero when it comes to hospital bedding, food and other items that we in Melbourne take for granted. Families are expected to provide all food and basic needs to the patient. See a typical ward in this photo to the left.



Donation of much needed clean syringes to the hospital in photo to the right.

<https://um1yangon.edu.mm/en/hospitals/vgh/> <https://pediatrics.wustl.edu/places/yangon-myanmar/>



MARY CHAPMAN SCHOOL FOR DEAF CHILDREN

This Anglican school was established over 100 years ago and takes in 120 boarders and 240 day students. It is poorly resourced with minor government assistance. The children are educated and participate in vocational training in hairdressing, beauty – nails and cosmetics – massages, computer skills and as baristas. All children are given a daily lunch and it was determined that too many children were becoming unwell due to the inability to properly wash the kitchen utensils, cutlery and crockery used by the children. Our club has donated a new dishwasher to protect the children from disease.

<https://www.mcsdeaf.org/>

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Richard with the newly installed dishwasher in the Mary Chapman School for Deaf Children.



And Richard was very happy to volunteer to have his nails done – all in the name of helping the students practice their skills of course!



MYANMAR LIVER FOUNDATION

The club has again supported the Myanmar Liver Foundation. The doctors and nurses give their time and expertise to help many people around the country who suffer from liver disease. Liver disease is common in Myanmar where hygiene is difficult due to poor living conditions including lack of accessible fresh water. Hepatitis in its many forms is contracted and affects the liver causing liver cancer and cirrhosis.

<https://www.myanmarliverfoundation.org/about-us/>

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THE ROTARY CLUB OF YANGON

Richard and Nola represented our club at a meeting of the Rotary Club of Yangon. They were treated to a lovely meal and gave the members an insight in to the projects and fundraising that we do. A club banner was presented to the club.

FUNDRAISING MADE EASY!

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Rotary Raffle. Our first allocation of raffle books disappeared very quickly. Rotary Club of Ballarat South has sent out a further 50 books. If you would like to take the opportunity to be part of some fundraising for our club contact Vera and you will be provided with a book.



Please join the Rotary club of Essendon's Fellowship Day

Spit Roast at Drusilla

Brougham Rd Mount Macedon

Cost \$25 per head

**Meats, salads, and desserts.
Plates and cutlery provided
BYO Drinks**

Book online by Friday 15th March
rce.org.au/events
or contact Michael 0400 986 833



**Sunday
24th March
12pm - 3pm**
gardens open 11:30am

This is a very simple way for Rotary Club of Essendon to fundraise. Rotary Club of Ballarat South provide the prizes, (first prize is a car). They make tickets available to Rotary Clubs and Community groups. We sell the tickets for \$2 each and keep 80% of sales for our club projects.

There are 10 tickets in each book.

AND.....

Tickets for this beautiful event are limited to 50 and strictly on a first in basis. You are welcome to bring family and friends. Do not miss out on enjoying the glorious Autumn colours in this idyllic environment. **BOOK NOW!**

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STRATHMORE MENS SHED – MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE OFFER

The second 2-day course will be running on Wednesday 27th March and Thursday 28th March.

Venue will be confirmed but the course runs from 8.30am - 4.30pm on both days.

Again, we extend an invitation to our supporters from the Essendon, North Essendon and Strathmore Rotary clubs and at this stage we have reserved a place for a member from each club.

Please advise asap on whether your clubs wish to take advantage of this fully funded training and the name of the individual nominated.

Should there be additional spaces available at a later date we will let you know.

We have included the link to Mental Health First Aid's website and the facilitator giving further details on the program.

<https://mhfa.com.au/> <https://mhfa.com.au/instructor/541076>

Contact Rod McLeod for more information e: strathmoremensshed@gmail.com

[Did you know...](#)

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PEACE FELLOWSHIPS

Each year, Rotary awards up to 130 fully funded fellowships for dedicated leaders from around the world to study at one of our peace centres. Through academic training, practice, and global networking opportunities, the Rotary Peace Centres program develops the capacity of peace and development professionals to become effective catalysts for peace. The fellowships cover tuition and fees, room and board, round-trip transportation, and internship and field-study expenses.

Since the program began in 2002, the Rotary Peace Centres have trained more than 1,700 fellows who now work in over 140 countries. Many serve as leaders in governments; NGOs; education and research institutions; peacekeeping and law enforcement agencies; and international organizations like the United Nations and the World Bank.

[Do you know someone who may benefit from being awarded a peace fellowship?](#)

To learn more about the Peace Fellowships go to <https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/peace-fellowships>

[And to read some truly inspirational stories where change has happened because of the fellowship program go to](#)

<https://www.rotary.org/en/africas-agents-change>



C O N T A C T



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PRESIDENT MICHAEL proudly announced that the first 30kg of honey from a hive he and Andrew Panjkov rescued from Boundy's supermarket has been collected. The hive was transferred to a bee box built by our very own Strathmore Men's Shed during our club project to build and distribute 100 bee boxes. The bee boxes have been distributed far and wide and notably to the eastern Victorian regions which were affected by widespread bushfires. The fires wiped out thousands of bees and hives and the bee boxes have been managed by speciality bee handlers to regenerate the bee populations with suitable bees. Following this project, the Moonee Valley Beekeepers Club was established and Michael was the first president. Congratulations Michael! If you want your own bee box speak to Michael.

WANT TO JOIN IN AN EASY WAY TO FUNDRAISE AND HELP THE ENVIRONMENT IN ONE GO?

The new recycling sites are now operational for eligible cans and bottles to be deposited in exchange for cash. All you need to do is have a look on the side of your soft drink or alcoholic beverage can, glass bottle or plastic bottle to identify if it qualifies for this program. If you see a label that says "10c Refund at collection depots/points in participating state/territory of purchase" then you can save it for use at the Container Deposit Scheme depot.

Eligible ✔



- ✔ Aluminium cans
- ✔ Plastic bottles
- ✔ Glass bottles
- ✔ Paperboard cartons (under 1L)
- ✔ Steel bottles/cans

Most beverage containers (between 150mL and 3L) made from aluminium, glass, plastic, steel and liquid paperboard are eligible.

Ineligible ✘



- ✘ Wine and spirit bottles
- ✘ Milk containers
- ✘ Paperboard cartons (over 1L)
- ✘ Cordial bottles

Don't throw these out! Ineligible containers may still be accepted in your kerbside recycling bin.

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DO NOT CRUSH CANS OR PLASTIC BOTTLES.

All funds raised go to club projects. So, drink up and donate!!!

Go to this site to see what you can save and exchange for cash.
<https://cdsvic.org.au/eligible-containers>



Coming up soon...

05 March Meeting with RC Strathmore Australian Rotary Health Fund; Ash McVoy (PhD student) and Justin her supervisor from Monash University will present their research on better outcomes in Dementia treatment. Ash's research is sponsored by the Bartolina Peluso scholarship from the Rotary Club of Strathmore through Australian Rotary Health Fund (ARHF) and dovetails with the Rotary Club of Essendon's Norm Mollica Mental Health programme.

19 March Dr Graeme Dennerstein and "25 Years of Flying Gynaecology"

24 March Fellowship Day at Drusilla 11.30 am – 3 pm; What a fabulous opportunity to spend the day together. Bring your family and friends and let's have time for Fellowship. Bring a picnic rug, a chair to relax in and your walking shoes to explore the beautiful gardens. Don't forget the sunscreen ☺
Contact Michael Portelli for more information.

02 April Lisa & Stuart Wait – The Ruben and Cambodia projects – get an update on the Ruben Centre project of the medical waste incinerator and dental chair plus more!

12-14 April District 9800 Conference in Bendigo. There is still time to register and attend the District Conference. A large group of Essendon Rotarians are going so join in the fun of a weekend away with friends as well as being inspired and educated with notable speakers and events.

Here is a clue to one of the keynote speakers



16 April ANZAC Bill Anderson; a Vietnam veteran will share his story with members.

21 May Charter Night – more info to come later

21 June President's Night – more info to come later

C O N T A C T

Thanks to Stephen Chandler our resident historian for telling us about the building of the Essendon Community Playground at the corner Langs Rd and Epson Rd Ascot Vale – just near the Showgrounds. In 1993 the playground was built entirely by volunteers after the community including our Rotary club raised \$100,000.00. Work started on a Wednesday with a greenfield site and by Sunday there was a fabulous playground which had been built by the community for the community. Local schoolchildren were consulted about what they would like to have included in the playground. A specialist architect was enlisted to design and engineer the playground to ensure safety for those who will utilise the equipment. Our club was designated the job of being in charge of tools required for the construction. Well done to all involved!



**Wouldn't it be fun to have a family picnic day at the playground!
Or even better a Rotary Club of Essendon family picnic day!
If you are interested in this idea email the Editor or President.**

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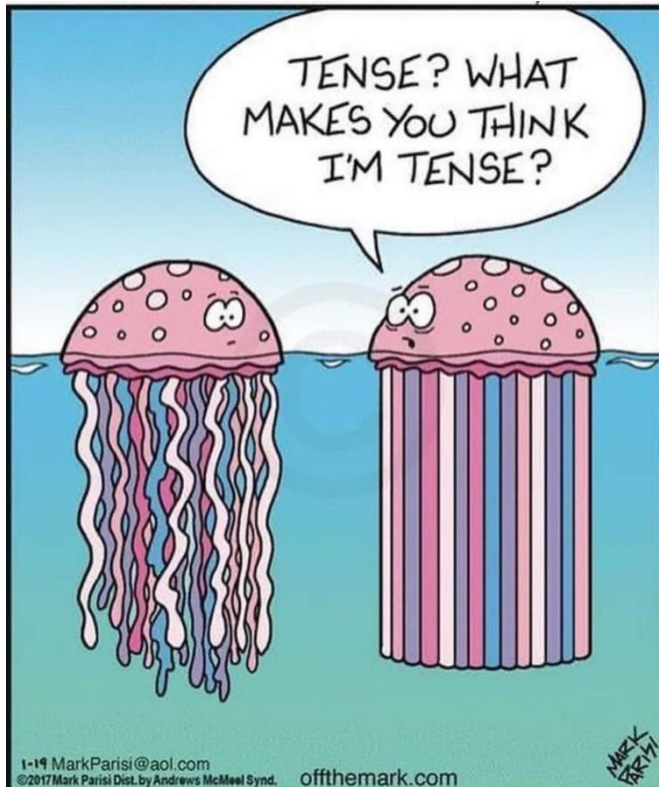
You and your family and friends are invited to visit us at an upcoming meeting

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

We would like to thank our official sponsors;

Interested in being a sponsor?

[Download the website sponsorship guide](#)



Proudly supported by
**Strathmore
Community Bank** Branch

 **Bendigo Bank**