

C O N T A C T

President's Night 21/06/2024

Hyatt Place, Essendon Fields

Rotary International Theme June 2024. Rotary Fellowships Month

From our President...

If all the seas were one sea,
 What a great sea that would be!
 And if all the trees were one tree,
 What a great tree that would be!
 And if all the axes were one axe,
 What a great axe that would be!
 And if all the men were one man,
 What a great man he would be!
 And if the great man took the great axe,
 And cut down the great tree,
 And let it fall into the great sea,
 What a splish splash that would be!



President Michael Portelli told us of this little poem as he began his last speech as the 89th president of the Rotary Club of Essendon at President's Night on Friday 21st June 2024. It is what his father said when "IF" was the question.

Michael continued; "IF we are prepared to dream, as we often do in Rotary, then a simple idea can make a great splash. As I prepared for my Rotary year I remembered a quote from Mary McKillop 'Never see a need without doing something about it.' Our club members are particularly good at seeing the need out there in our community and on the international stage and doing something about it.



C O N T A C T

Just in this last week Cathy Nicou, Vera and Deanna have been out purchasing 60 rain jackets and 60 thermal tops for youth experiencing homelessness in Melbourne. Some other projects that we have been proud to support this year include;

WERN Western Emergency Relief Network
The Aphasia Group
DIK Donations in Kind
The Strathmore Men's Shed
SCOPE Australia
Ukrainian children
The Buckley Park College scholarship
The Essendon Keilor College scholarship
Kangan Excellence Awards
Myanmar equipment to Yangon Hospital, the Liver Foundation, a school of the deaf, a children's orphanage and an education program to stop the organ theft of live people.

A District 9800 grant helped to buy a medical waste incinerator and a dental chair for the Ruben centre in Nairobi, Kenya.

The club will be hosting Greg Barake from the Ruben Centre as he visits Australia via a Royce and Jean Abbey Scholarship. I believe that we have achieved a lot this year and have had a lot of fun and fellowship in the process. Thank you to all of our club members, our friends and our families for supporting me and our Rotary Club of Essendon during my presidency.

I want to give a big shout out to my wife, Margarite, for being my rock and my first lady.

A special thank you to my Vice President Veronica O'Sullivan, Secretary Steve Roe, Treasurer Sunil Pereira, and all the board members, thank you. And also to my support members that had my back, Roger Leask, Shirley Kuk, Maria Kouppas and Lisa Lowcock.

So, I encourage you to keep asking, What IF, and believe that your idea, or need could become a reality by our wonderful Rotary Club of Essendon. '



C O N T A C T

We have many members who dare to dream and act on their dreams. Our club honours those people in various ways.

One is by nominating a member to receive a Paul Harris Recognition.

A Paul Harris Recognition is given by The Rotary Foundation when US\$1000 is donated to The Foundation. A club can donate to The Foundation in the name of a member who is recognised for their outstanding service to the club.

Denis Kosnar has been a member of the club since 1997. He has been a regular contributor to the club on all committees and has devoted many hours and sponsorship to the Moonee Valley Art Show since its inception over the last 10 years. He is also well recognised for his many appearances in the President Night skits. Denis has always been an avid supporter of club activities and enjoys the ideals and fellowship that prevail at the Rotary Club of Essendon.

Denis received a PHF presented by President Michael Portelli. Denis' wife, Maxine and his two daughters were in attendance to witness the presentation.



PAUL HARRIS FELLOW

- Paul Harris Fellow recognition is given in appreciation to anyone who contributes, outright or cumulatively (or in whose name is contributed), a gift of \$1,000 or more to the Annual Programs Fund, PolioPlus Fund, or the World Fund, or as a sponsor portion of a Foundation grant.



C O N T A C T



The Royce Abbey Award recognises a Club member who demonstrates commitment, enthusiasm and outstanding commitment to the Ideals of Rotary. Each Awardee is selected by the Club's Board on the recommendation of the Club President. On bestowing an Award, the Club contributes AU\$1,000 to the Royce and Jean Abbey Endowed Fund. The Fund was established within the Rotary Foundation in recognition of Royce Abbey AO DCM, past member of the Rotary Club of Essendon and President of Rotary International 1988/89, with the financial contributions of his 1988/89 District Governors. The earnings of the Fund finance the Royce and Jean Abbey Vocational Scholarship, which sponsors food producers, foresters, farmers, environmental teachers and community leaders who are brought to Australia to acquire practical skills they can use in their home countries.

Sam Tartaglia received a Royce Abbey Award presented by President Michael Portelli. Joined by his family – which was a big surprise – Sam was humbled by this presentation. Having joined the club in 1980 Sam has served on the board in many roles including Secretary, Treasurer and President in 1993-94. He has also been the club's Protection Officer and Public Officer for many years and has always been generous in his wise counsel on many legal issues. Sam has been a great contributor to the Rotary Club of Essendon as well as a friend to many. He also has a PHF double sapphire.

C O N T A C T



One of the traditions and greatest highlight of Presidents night is the Skit which honours and sometimes pokes a bit of fun at the outgoing president.

It is a badge of honour to be a part of the skit and members offer their acting, and sometimes dancing, skills to the big production and the president always has some trepidation at what is going to happen.

This year's skit was a fabulous production with stars John Burns playing the role of Michael Portelli, Christine Hilbert taking on the role of Margarite Portelli – resplendent in Margarite's actual clothes which were secretly smuggled out of her wardrobe - and Steve Chandler presenting as a super glammed up client of the Portelli's business SpineLine Chiropractic. The crowd was mesmerised from the first scene and clearly the Portelli's were thoroughly entertained. Thanks to all those involved in the evening's great performance. Logie material!

C O N T A C T

It was then time for the handover of the Presidential collar from Michael Portelli to Anthony DeFazio, the President of the Rotary Club of Essendon for 2024-25. Tony gave his inaugural speech as president while his family and friends looked on.

Humbled and honoured to become the president in what will be the 90th anniversary year of the charter of the club, Tony presented his vision for the upcoming year.

Rotary International's vision:

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

Our essence

This summarizes what Rotary is all about — leaders who come together, form relationships, and create positive change in communities at home and around the world. It also reflects the values that define Rotary:

Fellowship: We build lifelong relationships.

Integrity: We honour our commitments.

Diversity: We connect diverse perspectives.

Service and leadership: We use our leadership skills and professional expertise to solve social issues in our communities.

Presidential Vision 2024/2025

PROUD, PROGRESSIVE, ENGAGED.



PROUD: A club with a long and distinguished track record of service and projects achieved and to be celebrated and promoted
PROGRESSIVE: Developing and nurturing our club with challenging projects and activities, innovating and trying different things

ENGAGED: Serving our local and global communities, understanding and responding to needs



C O N T A C T

Did you know...

That every Rotary International President creates a theme and logo for their year. The 2024-25 RI President Stephanie Urchick celebrates the magic of Rotary. She says members create that magic with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member of Rotary. It is up to us as members to see magic wherever we are and in whatever we do.



Coming up soon...

Our next club meeting will be on Tuesday 2nd July 2024 at our regular venue. Meet at 6pm in the Bistro to share a meal and have a chat with your fellow Rotarians. The meeting will start upstairs at 7pm sharp.
Windy Hill Venue
Cnr Napier & Brewster St
Essendon, Vic 3040

You and your family and friends are invited to visit us at 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](#)

an

Proudly supported by

**Strathmore
Community Bank Branch**

 **Bendigo Bank**

C O N T A C T

And just a few funnies to finish the year off.



Finally found out where
Neopolitan Ice Cream comes from



**Chocolate is vital for
our survival.
Dinosaurs didn't
have chocolate and
look what happened
to them...**

