

# C O N T A C T

Club meeting 02/07/2024

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



**Whatever Rotary may mean to us,  
to the world it will be known by the results it achieves.**

 **Paul Harris** Rotary founder

**What in the world can be more important than the health of mothers and children? If we keep this as our focus all the rest that communities need will emerge; clean water, proper sanitation, medical care, education, respect, family prosperity and a better future for all.**

The Rotary Club of Essendon is well known for executing the most amazingly successful international projects. There are many clubs around our district and beyond who have envied our achievements and have expressed congratulations to our club members many times.

At the recent D9800 Changeover our club was honoured to receive the District 9800 Recognition Awards 2024 for International Projects for our Ruben Centre Dental Chair and Medical Waste Incinerator Project.

President Tony and Elena were present to accept the award on behalf of our club.

Congratulations go to all involved in this lifechanging project.

You will all have read about this project in previous issues of Contact but if you need a refresher here is the article on the D9800 website. <https://rotarydistrict9800.org.au/stories/tackling-disease-prevention-saving-the-environment-topped-off-with-big-new-smiles!>



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Also, at the D9800 Changeover was Roger Leask who participated in presenting Royce Abbey Awards to some significant Rotarians in Jane Pennington who is currently district secretary but has done so much more, Grant Hocking PDG and Bob Fels who has been involved in our district sponsoring the most Peace Scholars anywhere in the world.

The Robert Fels Peace Award is a District 9800 Award to recognise a person who has significantly enhanced peace building and conflict resolution at international, national, or local community level. The award recognizes the leadership of Bob Fels in realising these



outcomes. All of these Rotarians have displayed the enthusiasm and commitment to Rotary at District level for many years as well as contributions to projects and events. To date 531 Royce Abbey Awards have been presented which translates directly to \$531000.00 being donated to our own charity The Rotary Foundation. These donations come directly back to the community via Royce and Jean Abbey Vocational Scholarships whereby an individual is sponsored to come to Australia to learn skills to then take back to their own community to improve the lives of those in need.



At the moment Ella Soares from Timor Leste is being hosted by members of Days for Girls Essendon and the Rotary Club of Keilor East. Ella is developing many skills including how to make the Days for Girls kits, how to run a team, upgrading her sewing skills as well as meeting the women who support the Balibo 5 Community Learning Centre by providing sewing machines, overlockers and other necessities for making kits.

## ROTARY MOONEE VALLEY ART SHOW 2024



The success of our annual Art Show fundraiser is dependant on YOU!  
The Show needs sponsors and you are responsible for getting them.  
Attached to the email is the sponsorship form and sponsorship proposal document to utilise when approaching businesses which you think could be involved in supporting our fundraising efforts. If you have any queries regarding this please speak to Regina.

# C O N T A C T

From Grant Hocking's Linked in page.

## [Grant Hocking ASM](#)

### **Regional Improvement Lead at Ambulance Victoria**

Very honoured to receive a Royce Abbey award at the recent District 9800 changeover. Recognition for service to the District on the District Leadership team, Board and Foundation committee (3 years as DRFC) over the last 14 years as well as establishing the Victorian Rotary Emergency Service Community Awards (Vic RESCA). Melissa and I were also recognised as Major Donors to The Rotary Foundation by past RI President Ian Riseley, RI Director Jessie Harman, Foundation Trustee PDG Dennis Shore and DG Ron Payne. A lovely day being recognised for something I enjoy. I feel strongly about the work of Rotary and am very grateful for the recognition. 😊



## DID YOU KNOW...?

There are so many acronyms used in Rotary that even experienced Rotarians sometimes scratch their heads in wonder. Attached to this email is a list compiled by D9800 - Rotary District 9800 – to help us sort it all out. The one we really need to remember is RCE = Rotary Club of Essendon.

## A NEW SEGMENT!

How well do you know your fellow Rotarians? Use these clues to work it out.

This Rotarian

-  Has been working in their chosen profession for over 30 yrs
-  Has a pet called Zoe
-  Loves getting down to the beach at Torquay with family
-  Barracks for Essendon
-  Went to St Bernard's Secondary School
-  Knows what this word means; **spondylolisthesis**

On the mend is Peter Condos following recent surgery.  
We all look forward to seeing you up and about again soon.  
And to any other sickies out there, get well soon!



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Great news was received during the week from Ravindran Jeyanathan in Battaramulla in Sri Lanka, that the targeted total of 108 cleft lip surgeries has been completed as part of the project initiated last year. Babies born with cleft lips struggle to feed and so are susceptible to feeding problems and may not thrive. Surgery also improves the appearance of the face and avoids social and confidence issues as the child grows. So many young lives have been improved because of what we as Rotarians do.

Thanks to Sunil and his team for completing this very worthwhile project.



Ella Soares, Royce and Jean Abbey Scholarship recipient, showing off her new sewing skills. Ella will return to Timor Leste with improved skills and much enthusiasm to teach others in the community centre to make Days for Girls kits. But that's not all! Women will also develop sewing skills to give them the opportunity to run their own small businesses making and selling clothes for the local community. So, girls will be able to attend school without missing valuable days because of managing their menstrual period and women will have the opportunity to make money to care for their families. Such a great way to make positive differences in thousands of lives every day.



**With our brand-new president skipping the country to have a much-needed family holiday after the stress of changeover night we welcomed VP Sam Tartaglia to wrangle the members at our first 2024-25 club meeting. Sam passed on the key points of our president's focus for the year;**

-  **We are all here with a common sense of purpose.**
-  **Get involved! The more you put in to the club the more you will get out of it.**
-  **Attend meetings so you get to know the other members. Fellowship and camaraderie are at the heart of Rotary clubs.**
-  **It is up to each and every one of us to develop and nurture our club.**

**A great way to be involved, get to know your fellow Rotarians, have a heap of fun, be a part of the direction of our club projects and explore the world is to be part of an RCE delegation.**

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## Myanmar Delegation 2024

Richard Lawrence presented the details for the delegation to be going to Myanmar 18-26<sup>th</sup> November 2024. If you haven't been to the beautiful and amazing country of Myanmar this delegation provides a great opportunity to have a most memorable experience. Many members of the club have made the journey to inspect our projects and ensure that the money we raise is being managed in the correct way. The team also considers future projects while there. Our club has a great connection with the people involved in our projects and the accountability of our projects is vital for us to be able to continue our life changing impact in that country. Some of the projects to be visited this year will be the Hope for Myanmar Children's Home, the Mary Chapman for Deaf Children facility and the Myanmar Liver foundation. There will also be a meeting with the Rotary Club of Yangon. While this is not a holiday – it is Rotary in action – there is the opportunity to add days on to the official delegation dates to further explore the area.

Contact Richard for further information.

Read a little about the Hope for Myanmar Children's Home  
<https://rotarydownunder.com.au/2023/01/13/rotary-club->

[of-essendons-international-projects/](#)

Mary Chapman for Deaf Children <https://www.mcsdeaf.org/>

Myanmar Liver Foundation <https://www.myanmarliverfoundation.org/>

Happy Birthday to you..... Nola Spicer and Stephen Roe.  
Hope you both celebrate with those you care about.



## The Polio Plus Society D9800

Jane Pennington has sent us the most recent newsletter for the D9800 Polio Plus Society. For only \$100 per year you can be a part of eradicating the wild polio virus in our lifetime. Be a part of this piece of world history. Check out the newsletter attached to the email.

<https://www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au/stories/the-polio-plus-society-has-arrived-in-district-9800>

# C O N T A C T

**Michael Cariss introduced our speaker for the night presenting his Behind the Badge talk John Burns.**

John gave us a great account of his life from being born in Sydney, holidaying in Murwillumbah, where coincidentally his life partner Valmai was born, to being a member of Apex, becoming a teacher, having 2 kids, becoming a school principal, doing a Bach. Economics, being involved in developing energy efficient housing with students, taking the school surfing group to the beach – and when the surf was not co-operating learned to throw a boomerang and have it come back – having high achieving children who were champion swimmers and pentathletes, and subsequently becoming involved in all his children were involved in, restoring a Datsun 240Z, moving around the country, joining Rotary and ultimately having the bragging rights of reprimanding a student who was skipping school and who was giving the reason that he didn't need to go to school because

he was one day going to be driving Formula One cars – yes none other than a young Mark Weber.

Now John enjoys retirement with Valmai be still being involved in the community, something they have both done all of their lives. John attends our very own best shed anywhere, Strathmore Men's Shed where he is known as The Chairman because of his ongoing work restoring his daughters set of dining chairs.

If you missed out on this presentation be sure to sit with John and Valmai at one of our functions to hear about his amazing life. Thanks John!



As part of our recent club planning event focusing us to what we want our club to be the attendees agreed to attend the Essendon Farmer's Market with a club stall promoting our club, our projects, encourage new members and publicise Rotary. Nola has emailed a roster for the first three months. Nola needs photos of members showing Rotary in Action for our promotional materials. If you have some great pictures send them to Nola this week. The Art Show will be highlighted and Nola has requested that we all utilise the sponsorship pack to secure sponsors for the show. Without sponsors we cannot make a profit from this, our biggest fundraiser of the year.

**Rotary Moonee Valley Art Show 11-13 October 2024**

<https://mooneevalleyartshow.com.au/>

**The Art Show is our biggest and most public fundraiser every year. YOU are the key to making it a success. Contact Regina to discuss how you can be involved.**



# C O N T A C T



- Club Meeting Jul 16, 2024 Windy Hill 6:45 pm – 8:00 pm

**[Tips for Business Leaders: Bernadette Schwerdt](#)**

With a distinguished career spanning over three decades, Bernadette has established herself as a leading authority on how to empower individuals and organisations to harness the power of creativity, to inspire change and drive success. Bring all of your family and friends who run a business, no matter the size, so they can lead their company to bigger and better successes.

To book <https://rce.org.au/event/tips-for-business-leaders--bernadette-schwerdt/>

- Club meeting November 26<sup>th</sup> we will be welcoming the District Governor Michael Lapina. Be sure to attend to be informed and inspired by Michael. <https://rce.org.au/event/dg-michael-lapina-visit/>

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](#)

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