

C O N T A C T

Club meeting 03 December 2024

Riverside Golf Club, 75 Newsom St, Ascot Vale VIC 3032

“Our club has been active in pursuing its mission of PROUD, PROGRESSIVE and ENGAGED while promoting service above self, fostering community engagement, and contributing to both local and global initiatives.”
President Tony DeFazio



DECEMBER IS DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

From the Rotary International website; We (Rotarians) believe good health care is everyone’s right. Yet 400 million people in the world can’t afford or don’t have access to basic health care.

Disease results in misery, pain, and poverty for millions of people worldwide. That’s why treating and preventing disease is so important to us. We lead efforts both large and small. We set up temporary clinics, blood donation centres, and training facilities in underserved communities struggling with outbreaks and

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health care access. We design and build infrastructure that allows doctors, patients, and governments to work together.

Our members combat diseases like malaria, HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, and polio. Prevention is important, which is why we also focus on health education and bringing people routine hearing, vision, and dental care.

How Rotary makes help happen

We educate and equip communities to stop the spread of life-threatening diseases. Rotary members have hundreds of health projects underway around the world at any given time.

TAKING THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS TO VINCENT CARE GLENROY SO KIDS IN NEED WILL HAVE A HAPPY CHRISTMAS DAY.



Christmas can be a difficult time for many people and the reasons varied.

In times of uncertainty for families facing economic, social and housing instability it is especially hard for parents and carers to buy a gift for their children at Christmas.

Our community committee recently delivered a truck full of Lego from DIK to VincentCare in Glenroy to be distributed to families in need and ensure a very exciting and fun Christmas day for their children.

After all, every child deserves to have a happy Christmas.



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MERRY CHRISTMAS PARTY 2024

From our President Tony;

“It’s an absolute joy to welcome you all to our Club's Christmas function.

Tonight is a special occasion, a time for us to pause, reflect, and celebrate the achievements of our club over the past year, for example our Art Show and our many overseas projects, as well as the friendships and connections that make Rotary so meaningful. These achievements are a testament to what we can do when we come together as a team with a shared purpose.

We truly live up to our Rotary motto of "Service Above Self."

The festive season is a time of gratitude, and I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your dedication, enthusiasm, and contributions throughout the year. Whether it’s through volunteering, fundraising, mentoring, Board and committee meetings or simply showing up with a smile, you’ve all played a vital role in helping our club thrive and make a positive impact.

Welcome back Richard Lawrence, Tim Anderson and Nola Spicer from their delegation visit to our friends and projects in Myanmar. Christopher and Sandra also accompanied them. Tim and Sandra have then travelled on to China for some time away.

We thank them for their efforts and commitment in representing the club and making a positive difference to the lives of those in need. We look forward to a presentation on Myanmar at one of our club meetings next year.

Tonight is not about work—it’s about celebration. It’s a chance to relax, enjoy good company, and embrace the joy and warmth of the holiday season. This is also a time to acknowledge the unwavering support of our partners and families, who stand by us and allow us to dedicate so much time and energy to Rotary’s mission.

We wish Roger Leask and Maxine Kosnar a very special and happy birthday today.

A special thank you goes to everyone who has worked behind the scenes to organize tonight’s event. Your efforts are deeply appreciated and have set the stage for what I know will be a wonderful evening.

As we gather tonight, let’s take pride in what we’ve achieved, toast to the friendships we’ve built, and look ahead to a New Year filled with opportunity, purpose, and continued service to our community and beyond.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas, a joyful holiday season, and a safe and happy New Year. Let’s make the most of this special evening together.”

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MYANMAR DELEGATION NOV 2024

Richard Lawrence led the small but enthusiastic delegation to Myanmar this year. With him were members Nola Spicer and Tim Anderson along with their respective partners, Christopher Blampied and Sandra Anderson.

The programme was a packed one.

HOPE FOR MYANMAR CHILDRENS HOME has been one of our projects for many years. HMCH Directors Grace and Run have cared for many children over the years and enabled them to attend school, many far from their homes in remote areas of Myanmar. As is our tradition the delegation sourced local rice and other foodstuffs, cooking equipment and utensils – thanks to Nola for her kind sponsorship of these items.

They will be quickly put to good use in the new kitchen and dining hall which our club sponsored last year.

The delegation also checked on the road to the farm also paid for by our club last year. The road is in good condition after the wet season which was very pleasing. The farm has animals raised for use by the Home as well as a vegetable and banana plantation. And again as is tradition the children were provided with balls, dolls and other toys for the children to enjoy.

STEP IN, STEP UP VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The Vocational training program aims to give young adults low level job ready skills to ensure they get employed with a success rate 75%+. Following a welcome by CEO, Jackie Appel



we were given a presentation on what SISU offers for vocational training and the new programs they have.

A tour of the classes impressed the delegation greatly and we provided solar lights to enable the students to study in the evening – there is little or no electricity in the children's homes – as well as sporting items for the students to enjoy. We also went and had a look at the ghetto area which is quite close by, where all the



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students come from. It's quite dirty and is a poor slum area which has many families who have no education, job prospects or sanitation. Child trafficking criminal activity is rife in Yangon. Children are trafficked for their "human organs" into China, Thailand and India and US, the SISU project aims to stop that. Rotary Club of Essendon has made a significant donation towards this important work. The club aims to also support the program next year.

MARY CHAPMAN SCHOOL FOR DEAF CHILDREN

Our club has contributed funding to assist in the vocational training programme for the older students at the school. There is an onsite café where the students acquire barista skills and other hospitality skills in conjunction with the Pan Pacific Hotel. The dishwasher we provided last year has made a marked difference to the students with the reduction in water infections. There is also a Beauty Shop, massage training and a new school museum where we discovered that Helen Keller visited the school in the 1950s.



On the Thursday night we attended the Rotary Club of Yangon regular monthly meeting which was held in the Park Royal Hotel where we were staying. The meeting was interesting with a guest speaker talking about the changes in Myanmar hospitality industry over the years. We celebrated Christopher's birthday and thanked the RC Yangon for having us all.

THE MYANMAR LIVER FOUNDATION This clinic is run as an all-volunteer doctor service. It has spread its reach over recent years to include a vaccination service to provide the poor with protection from COVID19, HIV, Hep B & C. We have supported this foundation over recent years and viewed the CAT scan machine donated in 2019. A meeting with doctors and staff about the most pressing



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needs was held. The delegation reached in to their own pockets to provided funds for consumables needed in the tests which are undertaken. The club donated over 6500 syringes to be used in the clinics. As previous delegations would know, it is not all work. We thoroughly enjoyed the culture and food as well as the local pagodas and temples in Yangon. We were moved by a visit to the Commonwealth Graves Cemetery.

Thank you to all who have supported the projects in Myanmar. We continue to make such a positive difference to the people in need.

Birthday wishes are extended to Roger Leask on December 3rd.



Coming Up;



We have a gig at the Moonee Valley Festival February 22. We need to accept the terms by 22 November. We need a group of volunteer members to make it happen. This is a huge opportunity to put our club out there for the public to see and hear about what we do. At our meeting last year telling our story was a major topic which needed addressing. Here is our chance to do it.

Please advise Veronica what part you can play in publicising our club in our local community.

Our annual Breakfast Meeting to finish off the calendar year. North x Northwest Cafe 6/2 Walker Street, Moonee Ponds
Come and enjoy breakfast and fellowship with fellow Rotarians before the Christmas break.

Register here to attend. <https://rce.org.au/event/breakfast-meeting-5/>

Our first meeting in 2025 will be on Tuesday 04 February.
See you then!



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Come along to our meeting on 18 Feb 2025 and meet our Australian Rotary Health Scholar, Miles McKenzie and hear all about his studies. For details; <https://rce.org.au/event/rce-mental-health-scholar-myles-mckenzie/>

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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Looking forward to seeing you all happy, healthy and ready to take on 2025

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A couple of pics from our Christmas Dinner Party held recently at the lovely Riverside Golf Course.

Note; this man is not the singer with the band but our very own President Tony! Nice jacket there!

