

C O N T A C T



Club meeting 04 March 2025 Windy Hill Venue, Cnr Napier & Brewster St, Essendon 3040

The Great Essendon Rotary Duck Race

"It was an absolutely wonderful day. My adult children and 2 year old grandchild loved it. It was wonderful to see so much of our community smiling and laughing and just having fun. I can't wait to come along next year and do it again. A big thank you to all involved at the Rotary Club, you should be very proud of yourselves for a terrific fun activity."

This was the feedback from just one of the hundreds of people who attended **The Great Essendon Rotary Duck Race** held last Sunday 3rd March 2025.

After a somewhat grey and showery morning the skies cleared so that the 766 bright yellow rubber ducks could dive in to the Maribyrnong River and race to the finish line for their owners to win some great prizes.

Our great leader Steve being like a duck. Calm on the surface but paddling like heck underneath.

Kids wearing our delightful yellow feathered duck hats or carrying our cute little rubber duckies strained to find their numbered duck on the river as their parents made sure none of them wandered in to the river to accidentally join the ducks. Families of all ages gathered as the speediest of the ducks reached the final line – those who went rogue certainly picked up the tidal movements as others got stuck in reeds, noodles and others just didn't really feel like rushing. It was all in the fun of the event.



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As the racing ducks paddled

as fast as they could they would have heard the wonderful sounds of the brass band playing near the finishing line. Fabulous music



added to the excitement of the day and we thank the Footscray Huge thanks must go to Stephen Chandler and his team in the Marketing and Public Image committee for the massive effort in putting this event together in record time. It could not have run so smoothly on the day without the help of all members who attended to assist with set up, selling items and the big pack up at the end of the day. And also thanks to those who assisted before the day picking up things we needed such as Steve Roe for getting the ducks from Langwarrin and Maria Kouppas for handling that megaphone with confidence. It was a great help.

We also want to officially thank the members of the Essendon Canoe Club for their expert help keeping the ducks in order, the Essendon Rowing Club for their advice and use of their space, the magnificent Hobsons Bay City Band resplendent in their red jackets for the absolutely brilliant music being played at the finish line and the Maribyrnong Bowls Club for use of its storage area.

This event definitely put our club out there for at least 300+ members of our local community to see and support.

A major issue discussed in our club review last year was to make our club more visible and better known in our local community and this event certainly achieved that.

It also proved to be a great fundraiser and while final figures are not yet available it is sure to be an event to consider holding again in the future.

Pres. Tony, Lisa and the second-place winners at the race.

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It was so exciting!



Members also survived a very hot and windy day to sell tickets at the Moonee Valley Festival at Queens Park Moonee Ponds the week before the race. Thanks to those who helped there too.

Big thank you to the following for sponsoring the race;

Precept Services Pty Ltd,

Delivr and the Strathmore Community Bank, Bendigo Bank.

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Thanks to all the wonderful photographers for recording the day our ducks first took to the water.

And thanks also to the members of the Rotary Clubs of Peninsula 2.0 and Ocean Grove for their help and advice.

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Guest Speaker Kerry Anderson OAM; Rural Entrepreneurs

“Entrepreneurs are visionary, courageous, and passionate. They are determined and innovative while finding solutions to problems and creating new enterprise. Every failure provides valuable learning. When faced with uncertainty, such as during the recent COVID-19 restrictions, they can be agile and adaptable, moving on to new opportunities and new ways of working. Collaboration and community are valued.

Most important of all, entrepreneurs do it, not just dream and talk about it.”

ENTREPRENEUR:

- “someone who starts their own business, especially when this involves seeing a new opportunity:” Cambridge Dictionary
- “An entrepreneur is a person who innovates solutions for real problems by developing their own enterprise.” <https://business.uq.edu.au/article/ultimate-entrepreneur-guide>
- “a person who sets up a business or businesses, taking on financial risks in the hope of profit.” Oxford Languages



We all have some idea of what an entrepreneur is and we could name people who we see as an entrepreneur. Kerry Anderson has assisted many young – and not so young – rural entrepreneurs to achieve their dreams of creating and running a new business. She has interviewed and written about their stories in her book “Australian Rural Entrepreneurs – Redefining the Future”. So Kerry has gained a greater understanding of what an entrepreneur is, and isn’t, and what makes them unique.

Over time Kerry has discovered 10 main attributes that all successful entrepreneurs have;

They are * visionary * courageous * passionate * determined
* are good at problem solving * innovative * opportunistic * agile
* creative and * collaborative.

So regardless of what the business is, people who dream of starting their own business with a unique twist or need in their community, Kerry has found that those that make a success of their dream have these innate qualities. All will need some help along the way to success as the skills to make a business successful require other specialists in their fields. You may be an IT specialist but you will need a good accountant, you may know how to run a bakery but you need a good baker. You get the idea.

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Kerry recognises and supports entrepreneurs, specifically in the rural sector, to make a real go of their dream. She is a champion for rural businesses through practical community-based programmes and was named in the Top 50 Australian Regional Agent of Change list.

“Kerry empowers rural communities to take control of their own destiny through the innovative Operation Next Gen and Be Your Own Boss programs offered Australia wide. In 2017 she was one of two Australians invited by the Kauffman Foundation to Kansas City bringing practitioners worldwide together to share best practice in building collaborative entrepreneurship ecosystems.”

On 26 January 2022 Kerry was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for her services to business and community development.

We thank Kerry for visiting us and we welcome her back again any time.

International Women’s Day MVCC breakfast

The Moonee Valley City Council Annual International Women’s Day Breakfast was held at the Clocktower Centre on Friday, 7 March. As in past years representatives from our club attended the popular breakfast event. This year Tony and Elena DeFazio and Cathy Nicou attended to hear from key speakers

Mayor Ava Adams and Deputy Mayor Fran Cosgriff. They witnessed a panel discussion featuring local women and allies making a difference in the Moonee Valley community in support of the 2025 campaign; #MarchForward. The guest panellists to discuss the 2025 campaign were:

Judy Maddigan, first female Speaker of the House, Victorian Parliament (photo



of Tony & Judy)

Julie Kun, Acting CEO, Women with Disabilities Victoria

Ifrin Fittock, CEO Sisterworks Joshua Smith, Board member, No to Violence

10% of the profit from ticket sales will go to Yellow Lady Bugs, a non-government organisation dedicated to the success and celebration of autistic girls, women and gender diverse individuals.



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Vale Carmel Lamers

It is our sad duty to inform you of the passing of Carmel Lamers at the age of 101. Many will remember Carmel's husband Jim, a valued former member of the Rotary Club of Essendon who died in 2011 at the age of 86.

Carmel and Jim met in Bendigo in 1945 while Jim was serving in the RAAF. Following WW2, Jim trained as a physiotherapist, becoming an electrotherapy and sports physiotherapy pioneer. He developed the first ever TENS pain-relief machine.

Carmel and Jim had three children, seven grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren and enjoyed an active and varied life which included many sailing trips on a 26-foot motor-cruiser which Jim had personally built. We send our sincere condolences to the Lamers family on the loss of such a lovely lady of whom we retain many fond memories.

Kangan Institute Awards

President Tony DeFazio, Stephen Roe and Vera Maljevac were present at the annual Kangan Institute Awards ceremony to present the winners of two awards with their prize sponsored by the Rotary Club of Essendon. Joshua Pyke (right) received the Student of the Year award and was presented with \$1000 from our club and Spencer Campbell received \$500 as he received the Foundation Education Achievement award.

Congratulations to both students and we wish you a very successful future. We hope you will visit us and tell us about your plans soon.



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March is Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Month

“Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene is the most basic human need for health and well-being. Billions of people will lack access to these basic services in 2030 unless progress quadruples. Demand for water is rising owing to rapid population growth, urbanization and increasing water needs from agriculture, industry, and energy sectors.

The demand for water has outpaced population growth, and half the world’s population is already experiencing severe water scarcity at least one month a year. Water scarcity is projected to increase

with the rise of global temperatures as a result of climate change.

Investments in infrastructure and sanitation facilities; protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems; and hygiene education are among the steps necessary to ensure universal access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030, and improving water-use efficiency is one key to reducing water stress.” <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation>

“Safe drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene are crucial to human health and well-being. Safe WASH is not only a prerequisite to health, but contributes to livelihoods, school attendance and dignity and helps to create resilient communities living in healthy environments.” https://www.who.int/health-topics/water-sanitation-and-hygiene-wash#tab=tab_1

Rotary International understands this important worldwide issue and we as Rotarians make positive change to thousands of people around the world with our water and sanitation programmes.

Do you know any projects that our club have done in this field? There are many but there is so much more to be done.

You are invited to contribute to the club’s future programmes of providing clean water and sanitation to those in the world who need it most by identifying a project of value and raising it in your committee meeting.

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Here are links to Rotary International to see what sorts of projects are being done around the world. There is also the ability to see projects that are already operating by other clubs but that need more help in which we may be able to get involved.

<https://www.rotary.org/en/our-causes/providing-clean-water>

<https://my.rotary.org/en/Node/180941>



Coming Up

Tuesday 18 March 2025; Club meeting with Royce and Jean Abbey Scholar, Monica from Myanmar

Tuesday 01 April 2025; Club meeting with Rotary Club of Essendon Scholar Greg Barake from Kenya

Tuesday 15 April 2025; Club meeting - Rotary Safe Families programme

Tuesday 06 May 2025; Club meeting - Club workshop.

Wednesday 21 May 2025; Charter Night – Celebrating our 90th birthday

Friday 27 June 2025; President's Night

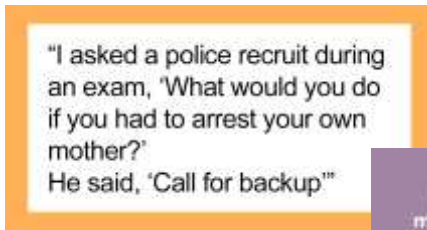


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A number of members have been asking about Rotary clothing/paraphernalia eg. Fluoro vests
 You can order items directly from <https://rdusupplies.com.au/>
 They have a very wide range of items to purchase. Be your own walking billboard by wearing Rotary on yourself. You can advertise Rotary everywhere you go. It is amazing how many other Rotarians around the world will stop to say hello!

And now for something completely different.....

In honour of International Women’s Day here are some “Mum jokes” (as opposed to Dad jokes obviously)



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

We would like to thank our official sponsors;

Interested in being a sponsor?

[Download the website sponsorship guide](#)

