

C O N T A C T

Club meeting 18 FEBRUARY 2025

WINDY HILL VENUE, NAPIER ST, ESSENDON 3040

“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

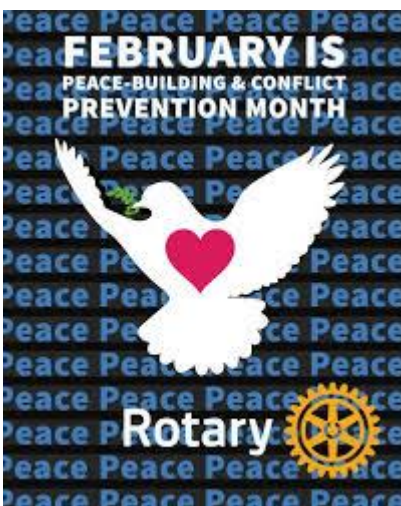
February is Peace Building and Conflict Prevention Month.

From our Rotary International website;
<https://www.rotary.org/en/our-causes/promoting-peace>

“Today, over 70 million people are displaced as a result of conflict, violence, persecution, and human rights violations. Half of them are children. We refuse to accept conflict as a way of life. Rotary projects provide training that fosters understanding and provides communities with the skills to resolve conflicts.

Rotary creates environments of peace

As a humanitarian organization, peace is a cornerstone of our mission. We believe when people work to create peace in their communities, that change can have a global effect.



By carrying out service projects and supporting peace fellowships and scholarships, our members take action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources.

Our commitment to peacebuilding today answers new challenges: how we can make the greatest possible impact and how we can achieve our vision of lasting change. We are approaching the concept of peace with greater cohesion and inclusivity, broadening the scope of what we mean by peacebuilding, and finding more ways for people to get involved.

Rotary creates environments where peace can happen.

Rotary’s Four Roles in Promoting Peace

Rotary and its members are:

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- **Practitioners:** Our work fighting disease, providing clean water and sanitation, improving the health of mothers and children, supporting education, and growing local economies directly builds the optimal conditions for peaceful societies.
- **Educators:** Our Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than 1,800 peace fellows to become effective catalysts for peace through careers in government, education, and international organizations.



*The Great Essendon
Rotary Duck Race*

Quack your way to family fun! Join us for an egg-extraordinary event that promises thrills, spills, and adorable quacks.

Just \$12 a ticket for a chance to win
1st prize \$2000
2nd prize \$1000
3rd prize \$700

Sunday 02 MARCH 2025
Maribyrnong River
 Start at The Boathouse Restaurant - end at The Essendon Rowing Club

Come along and cheer your duck to victory!
 Dive in at **2.30pm**

Use the QR code to purchase your ticket
 For more information go to rce.org.au
 All proceeds go to local community projects

- **Mediators:** Our members have negotiated humanitarian ceasefires in areas of conflict to allow polio vaccinators to reach children who are at risk.
- **Advocates:** Our members have an integral role as respected, impartial participants during peace processes and in post-conflict reconstruction. We focus on creating communities and convening groups that are connected, inclusive, and resilient.”

If there is only one thing you do this weekend it must be to come along to our inaugural Great Essendon Rotary Duck Race!

The club needs you to be there around 10am to help with the set up and promotion of the event. Then at 2.30pm there will be a grand countdown for the ducks to be splashed in to the Maribyrnong to float down our custom-made canal to the finish line.

Thanks to the Bendigo Bank Strathmore for supporting our prizes of \$2000 for first, \$1000 for second and \$700 for the third duck to finish the course.

This is a major event to raise our public profile in our local area so we need you

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there. You may need to help physically with the ducks or just tell people about Rotary and our club, but we need you. Bring along your family and friends for this fun event.

Make sure you wear your RCE fluoro vest.

And, of course, you need to SELL SELL SELL those tickets. We have a maximum of 1000 ducks to race and we are fast approaching that despite only selling now for a few days. Get in now to buy your ticket and tell your friends and family to use the QR code to take you to our website to purchase tickets.

Call Steve Chandler for race question and Lisa Lowcock for help purchasing tickets.

GUEST SPEAKER – MYLES MC KENZIE

This week we were lucky enough to have our Norm Mollica Mental Health Fund Scholar, Myles McKenzie zoom in to speak to us all the way from Townsville. Myles is a very impressive young man who is passionate about improving the lives of young indigenous people in his community.

Myles is part of the Australian Rotary Health Indigenous Health Scholarship and it is with funding from both ARH and the NMMHF that he is able to continue his studies.

The proportion of all deaths that were deaths by suicide was higher among First Nations people aged 0–24 years compared to non-Indigenous Australians aged 0–24 years (22.0% and 16.8% respectively).

The highest cause of death in indigenous 5-17yrs is suicide.

To hear that 22.0% of the deaths of indigenous children aged 0-24 yrs came as a shock to the people at our meeting this week. It is a tragic statistic that Myles is determined to see changed. Our scholarship provides him with the opportunity to do just that.

We first heard about Myles family, friends, community and his connection to his indigenous heritage. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Mundingburra in Townsville displaying his innate sense of community service.

Growing up with a keen sense of responsibility within a strong family has resulted in Myles having the qualities to make a significant impact on the lives of many young people. Myles was taught Responsibility over Rights. This guides Myles on his way through life.

His Dad was a soldier who survived an extraordinary incident rendering him disabled for a long time.



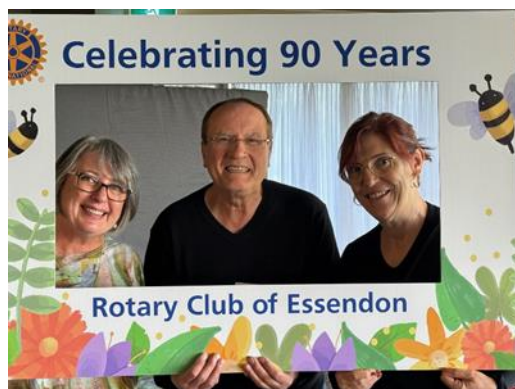
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Mum is a secondary school teacher who like many other teachers spends countless hours of personal time working for the benefit of the students in her care. From his parents Myles has learned that Grit and Determination are keys to success.

At 13yrs of age Myles took part in a traditional initiation on country. It was at this time that he learned of his new adult responsibility to family, community and elders. He also saw many men's groups full of men who were at rock bottom, as low as could be and their lives in tatters. It was then that Myles recognised that there is a specific need for mental health treatment integrated in to the indigenous culture.

Out of about 4000 psychiatrists in Australia only 7 are Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander for the roughly 220000 people in their regions.

- Having a connection with the people that need medical – especially mental health – help is essential. Myles having a strong connection within his community gives him a valuable insight in to the needs of the people he is dealing with as well as an acceptance and trust from those communities.
- The suicide rate amongst under 24yrs is devastating and a positive move to reduce this toll is essential. Myles has an enthusiasm for, and is gaining the vital skills through his studies which will save lives.
- The best way to connect with the indigenous community needing mental health care is to get out to where they are. Get out of the offices in the cities and just go to a river or under a tree and 'have a yarn'. That is where people will feel comfortable enough to start to talk about their troubles and be open to suggestions of help.
- Myles regularly sends updates of his studies results and is proud of the fact that he is one of only 3 students out of 1200 to has a constant GPA of 7.00. He took a round about way to get to this point of study but is relishing it. We congratulate him on his great achievements.
- The Rotary Club of Essendon is helping this to happen via our sponsorship through the Australian Rotary Health Fund. You are making that difference by being a member of Rotary.



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We thank Morrie Mollica who generously donated \$100 as a thank you to providing two of our wonderful history books.



We've had a few sickies and a few travellers over recent weeks. Glad they didn't get mixed up and get sick while travelling!

Alistair is on the mend and home again after a mild stroke.

Regina is back from a cruise.

Jenni and Peter went vanning and are back.

Dennis has had removed some suspect bits but is doing fine.

Deanna hasn't been well and we wish her all the best.

Sunil is in Sri Lanka visiting family.

Peter sends his regards from Qld as he is helping out with his daughter who is unwell.

And for any we have missed we wish you the best of health and safe travels.

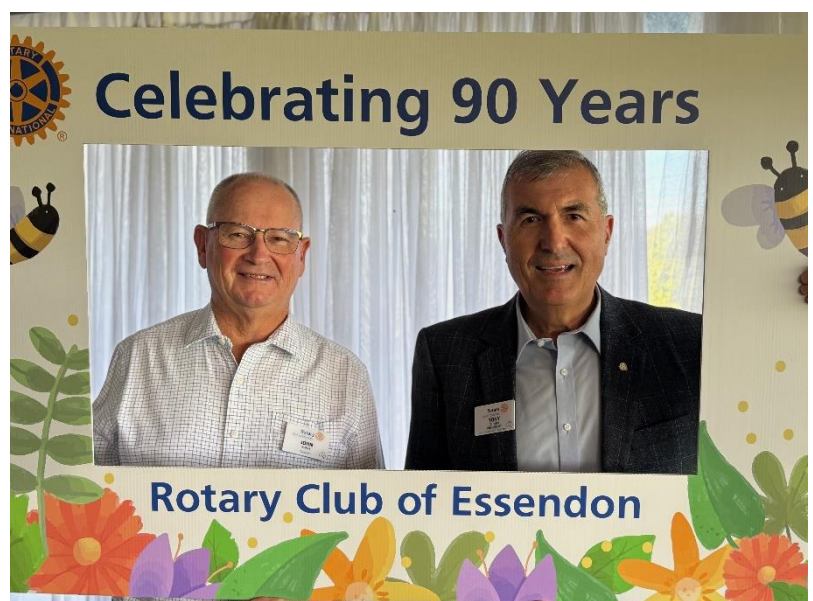


Michael Portelli bought along a fabulous photo frame for members to utilise when taking pictures at our events. Here are but a few of the gorgeous members enjoying feeling like a celebrity for a while.

Note; is it a coincidence that there are lots of bees on this frame???

Our 90th Anniversary Celebration will be held on Wednesday 21st May 2025. It will be at Windy Hill and Veronica O'Sullivan is co-ordinating the event. Invitations will go out soon so be sure to reply to secure your place to attend a most important event.

The Rotary Club of Essendon is proud to be the first suburban Rotary Club in Australia to be chartered. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Melbourne, our first members were the who's who of the district. To mark the occasion Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary, even visited us to congratulate us. There's lots of our history on our website. Have a look!



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We had a lovely visitor from Myanmar in Monica as the guest of Richard Lawrence and Nola Spicer. Monica is a Royce and Jean Abbey Scholarship recipient and is in Australia to gain knowledge to improve her skills and utilise them when she returns home in Myanmar.

**YUNN LAE EI (MONICA)
ROYCE AND JEAN ABBEY VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENT**

Monica is in Melbourne on a Royce and Jean Abbey Vocational Scholarship, she will be here from 16 February – 23 March. The Scholarship is funded by The Royce and Jean Abbey Endowed Fund - \$6,151.

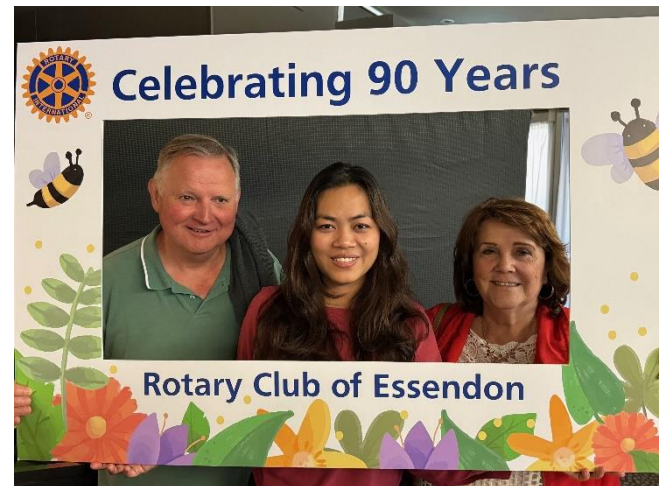
Monica currently serves as the Operations Manager at Step-in Step-up, a vocational training center in Myanmar. In this role, her responsibilities involve the oversight and coordination of the organization's daily operational activities.

Summary of Scholarship Activities in Australia:

engage in specific activities that will profoundly benefit both her current role and the community served at Step-in Step-up. Collaborate closely with diverse youth empowerment organisations and disability-focused projects or entities. This will provide valuable insights and best practices related to vocational training for people with disabilities. Explore the practical aspects of community development so that she can integrate these insights into the services and programs provided by Step-in Step-up.

Objectives of the Scholarship:

1. Engage with Vocational Training Institutes: seek to visit and collaborate with leading vocational training institutes in Australia specializing in programs for individuals with disabilities. This exchange will allow Monica to observe and learn firsthand about successful training methodologies, program structure, and participant engagement strategies.
2. Network and Learning Best Practices: establish connections with professionals in the vocational training and disability empowerment fields, attending workshops, seminars, and relevant events. By actively participating and networking, gather valuable information and best practices to enhance the vocational training programs at Step-in Step-up.
3. Conduct Case Studies and Comparative Analysis: conduct in-depth case studies of successful vocational training initiatives for people with disabilities and disadvantaged backgrounds in Australia, aiming to



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analyze their applicability and potential implementation within the context of Step-in Step-up Vocational Training programs.

Some of the organisations she will be visiting:

MDA, Inclusion Australia, Days For Girls Essendon, Strathmore Men's Shed, Helping Hand Mission, FeedMe.

It would be great if you could offer to take Monica out one day or evening and show her around our amazing city, to see the sights, enjoy our food and hospitality and learn about our culture. Speak to Richard Lawrence or Nola Spicer to arrange to an outing.

- Multi District Conference Adelaide 16 to 18 May 2025. Some of us are going earlier on the 13 May. We have to date 21 from our club registered for some fun and learning. Please join us! These conferences are a great way to get to know your fellow Rotarians better in a relaxed and friendly environment. Contact Kerry Roe who will be happy to assist. For more



information about the conference go to <https://rotarydistrict9800.org.au/>



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AND COMING UP SOON...

Tuesday 04 March 2025

Entrepreneurship **Kerry Anderson OAM**

Raised in a small business family, Kerry Anderson is author of **Australian Rural Entrepreneurs** (2020) and **Entrepreneurship: It's Everybody's Business** (2016). A renowned advocate for rural businesses and entrepreneurs she was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 2022 and named one of Australia's Top 50 Regional Agents-of-Change in 2018. Kerry provides a valuable rural voice and helps to share positive stories of rural businesses across Australia. She is currently working on building entrepreneurial ecosystems in regional Australia.



Tuesday 18 March 2025

Monica from Myanmar – a Royce and Jean Abbey Scholar

Tuesday 01 April 2025 – Don't be an April Fool! Get to our meeting and meet Greg Barake, an RCE Scholar, from Kenya. Greg is 28 years old and is employed as Communications Officer and Youth Mental Health Project Co-ordinator at Ruben Centre, Nairobi, Kenya. Greg is the Foundation President, Rotaract Club. Greg will be undertaking a vocational program March – May 2025. The Rotary Club of Essendon in conjunction with Edmund Rice Foundation and Christian Brothers St Kilda are funding Greg's scholarship program.

Come and meet Greg and welcome him to Australia. Friends and family are invited.

Tuesday 15 April 2025 – Rotary Safe Families is a Rotary 100 Year Project created by Dorothy Gilmore and Mary Barry, Rotary Melbourne. Come along to find out what it does and learn how you can be part of the solution to family violence.

Tuesday 06 May 2025 – Club workshop

Wednesday 21 May 2025 – Charter Night – Be a part of our 90th Birthday Celebrations!

Tuesday 03 June 2025 – General Club meeting

Friday 27 June 2025 – President's Night

Proudly supported by
**Strathmore
Community Bank Branch**

 **Bendigo Bank**

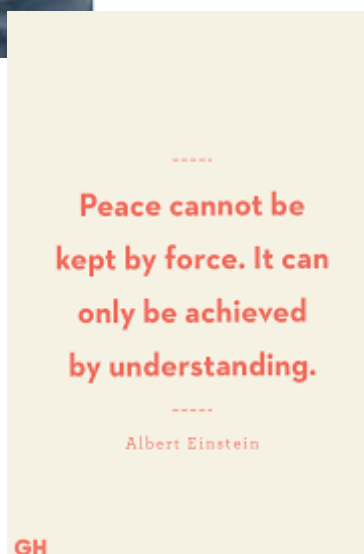
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You and your family and friends are invited to visit us at an upcoming meeting

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

We would like to thank our official sponsors;
Interested in being a sponsor?

[Download the website sponsorship guide](#)



“Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves.”
Paul Harris