

C O N T A C T

Club meeting Tuesday 7TH April 2026
Windy Hill Venue, Cnr Napier & Brewster St, Essendon 3040

April is when we focus on the Environment

END
POLIO
NOW



“3, 2, 1 We have lift off...”

Few on earth who have seen the photos from Artemis 2 this week would fail to be humbled by the sight of our fragile earth floating like a lone jellyfish in the dark endless ocean of space.

We are but one little speck in a vast universe.

The blue planet we call home shelters, protects and feeds us but we often respond with carelessness and we take for granted the gifts of nature which we have been given.

It is up to us to protect our earth and in turn protect the resources we need to live. If we don't take care our planet will have finite resources of clean water, clean air and clean earth. And where will that leave us?

Welcome Clovis Nehme

This week our club members were thrilled to welcome a new member, Clovis Nehme.

Clovis is a mechanic and is very happy to share information which will help keep us all safe on the roads. He particularly enjoys helping young drivers understand the machine of which they are in control.

Clovis is a lifelong learner and says that 'every minute we learn something'.

Clovis arrived from Lebanon in 1996 and has raised his family of 4 boys here in Australia.

Clovis was nominated by Michael Portelli, his mentor will be Roger Leask and he will be in the Club Services committee this year.

We welcome Clovis to the Rotary Club of Essendon.



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Dr Peter Condos PHF Sapphire x 2

When a member displays an extraordinary amount of commitment to Rotary, especially our own club, and is one who is consistently striving to see every project succeed we must not fail to acknowledge and thank them.

Dr Peter Condos is one such member. He is tireless in his efforts of managing the club website and frankly without Peter the two duck races would not have occurred. It has been Peter who has managed the sales and ticketing of the races which has been a mammoth effort. Countless hours have been put in to this job and we cannot underestimate the importance of Peter's work in the success of the races.

Peter is always very humble about his efforts in Rotary and his behind the scenes dedication may be easy to miss. The Rotary Club of Essendon has therefore nominated Peter to receive a Paul Harris Recognition Double Sapphire. It is our way of saying Thank You Peter for your ongoing work for the club.

You truly embody the core of what Rotary is all about; Service Above Self.

Past President Tony DeFazio presented Peter with his pin.



Guest speakers this week

Victoria Police Leading Senior Constables Meredith Nolan & Jo Imrie

<https://www.police.vic.gov.au/your-safety>

“When there’s something strange in your neighbourhood, who ya gonna call?”

Well most likely you’ll call the Victoria Police.

We all know to call 000 in an emergency. But what if it is not an emergency? And how can we make ourselves safer and less likely to be a target for those who don’t abide by our society rules and laws? How do I know if the email or text which I have received is a scam or not?

This week we learned about the most common reasons people and property are targeted and how we can make our homes and ourselves safer by two of our wonderful Victoria Police members whose job it is to visit clubs, schools and organisations to educate the public about safety.

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LSC Nolan and LSC Imrie were welcomed to the club by Maria Kouppas.

Their work is focused around education about crime prevention and child protection and they service schools and other youth-oriented organisations as well as organisations with members of any age who have an interest in increasing their knowledge of preventing crime in their lives and homes.

They are part of the VicPol unit which is servicing the Merribek and Moonee Valley regions.

With the amount of media releases about crime we could be forgiven for feeling scared when we are out and about and even when we are in our

own homes. The reality is that we probably will not be a victim of serious crime so we do not need to live in constant fear. But we have learned that those with less than honest intentions will always go for an easy target over one which may cause attention to be drawn to them when they commit their crimes.

Leading Senior Constables Nolan and Imrie gave us a thorough presentation of what we should do to help us to stay safe. Topics covered were theft of and from a motor vehicle, home security, property theft, personal safety, safety on public transport, scams – online, elder abuse, and how to get help.

Here are just a few of the tips we received and for further information go to

<https://www.police.vic.gov.au/your-safety>

- DO NOT leave valuable in your vehicle and always make sure your vehicle is locked and secured preferably off the street.
- Keep your property clear from rubbish and well maintained to keep hidey places to a minimum. Security lighting, alarms and cameras are a deterrent.
- Have good quality doors, windows and locks, including on your mailbox.
- Shred and destroy personal documents.
- Compile an inventory of your valuables including photos and serial numbers to assist in returning stolen goods to you.
- When you are out and about be aware of your surroundings, use one earphone only and stick to well lit roads. Keep valuables such as your mobile phone and money well secured and out of sight.
- When you are going somewhere unfamiliar make sure you have your route researched including public transport timetables and routes, and carparks. Have your keys ready before you get to your car.

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- Scammers are getting really good at taking your money. Losses of over \$2 billion were recorded in 2025. The top 5 scams were focused on investments, payments to scam companies, romance, phishing and remote access.
- Keep your information secure with appropriate programmes on your computer and update regularly.
- Choose strong passwords which are not used over and over again on multiple sites.
- Don't click on links for things you don't know or request information or money to be sent.
- Check your bank statements. Scammers often start with small purchases on credit cards before going for the big scam.
- If in doubt, delete, ignore and say no.
- Six types of elder abuse exist; physical, sexual, emotional, neglect, abandonment and financial. If you suspect someone is a victim of elder abuse – which is often perpetrated by family or friends – contact either Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or Elder Rights Advocacy 1800 700 600.
- If you suspect there is a stranger in your house, do not enter and call 000.
- If you feel unsafe on the street make space between yourself and the other person and seek safety in a well lit and busy place eg. A house you can see someone is at home or in to an open shop.
- For non-urgent reporting call 131 444
- The "Hoon Line"/Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000
- For more information go to website <https://www.police.vic.gov.au/your-safety>

If you would like to protect your vehicle from number plate theft Maria can provide the appropriate one way screws. Let her know if you are interested. The Strathmore Men's Shed provides a service to do this task for you. Just pop down on a Saturday morning as let them know you're from our club.

We thank both officers for their very informative and interesting presentation and we all also thank you for your contributions to making our community safer for us all.

Club Forum

Our club meeting on Tuesday 17th March was our annual Club Forum.

Maria and Christine led the very well prepared and productive evening where club members were encouraged to participate in activities which focused our thoughts on what the priorities for our club moving forward.

Why are we Rotarians? Why did we join and what keeps us here? What is important to us as we decide what projects and fundraising we do?

Overwhelmingly we all had shared values of helping others, having a sense of purpose and belonging in a team that valued our skills and resources and particularly we valued the friendships and socialising that being a member brought to us. The Board is taking the more detailed review of the Forum which Maria and Christine

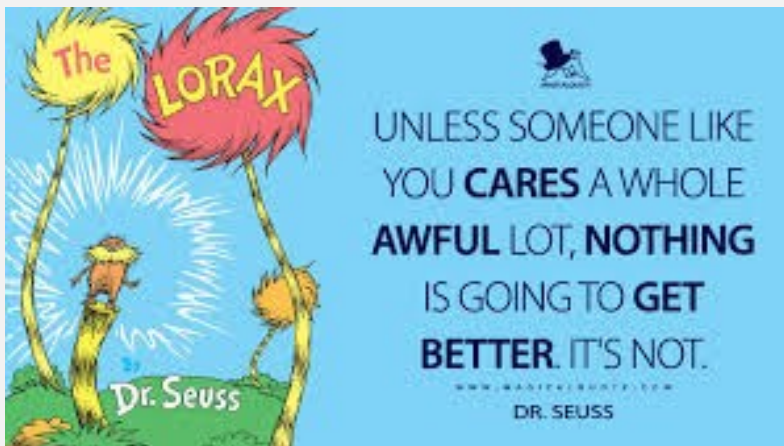
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as completed to assist in directing the club towards activities which unite our club which are enjoyable and meaningful.

Thanks to Maria and Christine for their leadership and efforts for our club's success.

Coming up soon...

Come along for our next club meeting at which we will be met with the delightful Border Force dogs. Tuesday 21st April at Windy Hill venue. Dinner at 6pm and the meeting at 7pm.



To see more about what Rotary members around the world do to protect our environment go to

<https://www.rotary.org/en/our-causes/protecting-environment>



President Denis presented new member Clovis with a bottle of wine labelled "The Mechanic".



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Medical equipment bound for Sri Lanka hospitals

On Tuesday 14th April our members John Odgers and Sunil Perera joined with members of Rotary Flemington Kensington at DIK to pack a container of medical items destined for the shores of Sri Lanka.

The items will be used specifically to assist in the stroke units at the Kalutara and Hambantota Hospitals. It is the 5th container sent to the hospitals and the 3rd container sent with items for the stroke unit from Rotary Flemington Kensington. Our club has supported this important project by assisting in the funding of transporting the equipment for the amount of \$2000.00. Congratulations to all involved in this worthy effort.



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Community Bank Keilor East Presents

Community Impact & Appreciation Night

We are delighted to formally invite you to celebrate the positive impact we and our sponsored partners make in our community.

Monday, the 4th of May 2026
6-8:30pm
Anglers Tavern - River Room
2 Anglers Way, Maribyrnong

We warmly encourage you to bring along a business partner and/or sponsor to join us for a meaningful evening of community spirit.

This is not a night to be missed, and places are limited, so please **RSVP by April 7, 2026**, and let us know how many people, including guests, will be attending.

YOUR PRESENCE MAKES OUR IMPACT POSSIBLE!

The Moonee Valley Beekeepers Club has been invited to a special appreciation night being organised by the East Keilor Community Bank for early May and we would like to extend the invitation to the Rotary Club of Essendon as one of our supporters.

The details are as follows:

Community Impact & Appreciation Night

Monday, 4th May 2026

6:00-8:30pm

Anglers Tavern - River Room

[2 Anglers Way, Maribyrnong](#)

If a couple of the Rotarians would be interested in attending this event, please let us know.

Kind regards,

Paul Kucera

Secretary

Moonee Valley Beekeepers Club Inc.

Email: mvbeekeepersclub@gmail.com

Web: www.mvbc.au

Social: www.facebook.com/MVBeekeepersClubInc/



Pictured left is our own bee master Michael Portelli.

He is shown opening up a bee box at Lisa's house and what he discovered was a wonderful amount of honeycomb filled with the most delicious honey. All up 2kg was gathered and is now being enjoyed by Lisa and her family. The left-over beeswax is being made in to candles and wax cloths.

Bees are essential to the survival of all of us. Without pollinators, plants we eat will not grow. Plants used to feed stock won't grow so no more for the carnivores amongst us. No food = no us!

If you would like to know what is involved in having a bee box and hive at your place please just contact Michael. It is a wonderful way to support the environment as we reflect on this month's Rotary theme.



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WE THANK OUR WONDERFUL DUCK RACE SPONSORS.
Please support them!

**ESSENDON
FIELDS**

**Jellis
Craig**



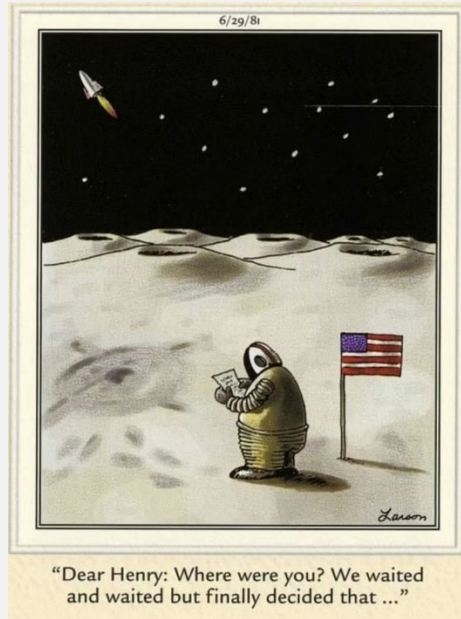
Strathmore
Community Bank® Branch



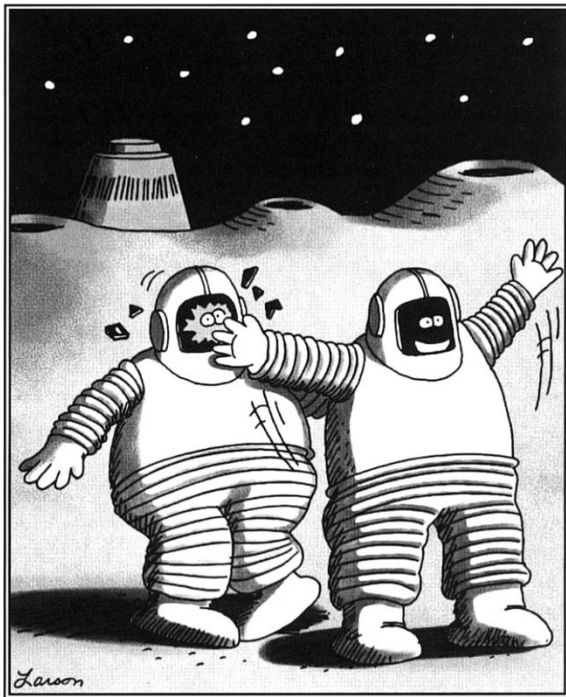
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"Listen. I think we better keep this quiet."



"Dear Henry: Where were you? We waited and waited but finally decided that ..."



"We've made it, Warren! ... The moon!"



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Victoria Police have a lot of information for all ages to assist you in being safer in your community.

A few brainteasers to keep the grey matter active. How many did you get right?

Q: If you write this five-letter word in all caps, it reads the same right side up and upside down.

Q: What's always on the ground but never dirty?

Q: What can fill a room without taking up any space?

Q: What do you bury alive and dig up dead?

Q: What is possible to catch but impossible to throw?