



C O N T A C T

President's Night Tuesday 30/06/2026
Windy Hill Venue, Cnr Napier & Brewster St, Essendon 3040

June is the month to focus on Fellowship



PRESIDENT'S NIGHT

We all thoroughly enjoyed a great night of fellowship at President's Night where we celebrated Denis Kosnar being inducted as the President of the Rotary Club of Essendon for 2026-27.

Denis has shown a dedication to the club over many years and is committed to ensuring our club enjoys fun and fellowship during the upcoming year while also achieving great things in fundraising and supporting people in need.

Denis graciously stood up to take on the presidency early in 2026 as the position, at short notice, became vacant.

He has done an amazing job over the last few months and we both thank him and wish him all the best for the year ahead.

We are all united in continuing to maintain our club as a leader in the Rotary world with our enthusiasm, commitment and expertise in conducting our fundraisers and projects with integrity and accountability, all the while having a great time with our friends.



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SUNIL PERERA PHF X2 SAPPHIRE

When we have a member, who gives outstanding service to Rotary and our own club we must and want to acknowledge them.

Sunil Perera is one such person.

Sunil has given his time, expertise and boundless energy to the role of Treasurer of our club for many years now. This is a complex and demanding role as regulations and laws constantly change and thus making reporting and compliance very time consuming and detailed.

Sunil has taken on the role of chair of the Norman Mollica Mental Health Fund subcommittee, ensuring that the funds donated are diligently managed for the optimum outcome.

He organises the best curry nights in his efforts to raise funds for various projects as well as managing projects of note including in his home country of Sri Lanka where he led a delegation.

Sunil is always ready for fun but takes his roles in the club with the utmost seriousness.

Along with his wife, Miriam, Sunil is a regular at club events.

For his service to the club Denis presented Sunil with a Paul Harris Recognition x 2 Sapphire pin.
Thank you Sunil for your service from all of your friends in the club.

CURRY NIGHT

Coming up soon – and being organised by Sunil – is a fundraising dinner to aid the Youth Projects organisation, especially youth at risk of homelessness as well as to support drug and alcohol prevention programs among youth. <https://www.youthprojects.org.au/>

A fabulous night of fine curry is scheduled for Friday 14th August 2026 so put this date in your diary.
More details will follow.

The treasurer would like to remind everyone to pay their club fees if not already done so.



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GUEST SPEAKER THIS WEEK

Paul Coghlan AO

Director of Public Prosecutions and Chief Crown Prosecutor Trials Division and Court of Appeals Justice at the Supreme Court of Victoria

We were delighted to have an esteemed guest speaker at President's Night. Paul Coghlan has a long and interesting history in the field of law resulting in his participation in some of the state's most serious cases.

Maria introduced Paul explaining the connections between them. However, the connections between Paul and Essendon go back further to when Paul was living as a child in Woodland Street before moving to Fitzroy where he would become very involved in the community, rising to be a councillor and then mayor. He has a deep sense of the protection of community and was very active in his time in council.



Paul's presentation started with him telling us about his Chinese grandfather who was a storekeeper in Melbourne in the 1800's and sold, amongst other things, opium. This was not an unusual thing in those days, unlike today where Paul would be at odds with his grandfather's activities. Paul's mother was the youngest of 13 children and while he never knew his grandfather who was "naturalised" in 1883, his legacy as a hard worker providing for his large family lives on. Paul reminisced about the amazing situation where an immigrant storekeeper would then have a grandson who would rise to be one of the highest legal officers in the state. Australia was certainly the land of opportunity for his family.

Paul then told us a bit about his story in the field of law and how deeply confronting and serious it is. 1980 was the year of his first murder trial. There was no sending the jury their separate ways for the night. They had to stay together for the time it took for them reach a verdict. This meant that sometimes the deliberation was completed during the night and as Paul described, "the Supreme Court is a very eerie place at night". The floors were bluestone or wood, the noises especially at night could be very creepy. When convicted of murder the prisoner was automatically sent to prison for the term of their natural life.

Some of Paul's trials were incredibly horrific – think of Arthur Freeman who callously threw his little daughter Darcy off the Westgate Bridge to her death as payback to his wife following their separation. And then a spate

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of cases where other men viewed the killing of their own children as justifiable punishment to their ex-spouses. It defies belief and for most of us it would be impossible to go home at night and sleep well. Paul explained how diligent he has had to be to maintain a separation between work and home. In what is a serious and confronting job it is essential to keep focused and concentrate at work so that he could leave work at the courts and go home to be separated from the horrors of the day. The biggest break-through and change over time has been DNA. Where it was once possible to convince jurors of the innocence of the defendant at trial, it is impossible to defend against DNA evidence. Criminals who think they have got away with murder – quite literally – are now convicted due to leaving DNA on items linked to crimes.

We thank Paul for attending President's Night and telling us about his life.



VP Sam Tartaglia inducting Denis Kosnar as this year's president.



The oldest member in attendance Roger, the newest member Clovis, the vice president Sam along with the DG Peter Shepherd congratulating Denis on his induction as president for 2026-27



Denis contemplating the “stuff” – I mean most valuable and precious historical club items – that gets passed down from one president to the next.

He is clearly thinking “Oh I know just the spot for this in our house”. What might Maxine be thinking???

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Sometimes a person can be surprised with the things that happen at events. **Lisa Lowcock** was certainly shocked but humbled and grateful for the recognition given to her at President's Night when she was presented with the **Rotarian of the Year** award.

Lisa has been a member since January 2005 and over the years has been actively involved in all areas of the club. She has travelled with club delegations to all the countries the club is involved with and has been committed to ensuring the accountability of the funds entrusted to the club to utilise.

Projects must be conducted with clear involvement of the people to whom funds and in-kind donations are committed. Fundraising and gaining in kind support is essential for what the club achieves and Lisa has most recently been an integral part of running The Great Essendon Rotary Duck Race.



Lisa was keen to state though that while she received this award it is only by continuing to work together to get things done that the best outcomes of our efforts are achieved. In short as our motto for the year states, we must Unite for Good.

Lisa thanks Denis and the Board for the award.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

Part of the club's annual calendar is the celebration of the charter of the club in 1935.

Being the first suburban Rotary club in Australia is a source of pride for members as we continue to strive to unite to do good in the world.

Each year we have our "birthday cake" and this year the honour of cutting the cake was bestowed upon our president Denis, VP Sam, newest member Clovis, oldest member in attendance Roger and DG Peter.

The cake was enjoyed as dessert and was delicious.

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**Have you always wanted to participate in a really practical and personal way of helping people in need?
This message sent to all D9800 club secretaries may be just what you need to get active.
Do you know what ROMAC is? Check it out here <https://www.romac.life/>**

Dear Stephen

We are seeking your assistance in reaching out to members of D9800 to assist with an incoming ROMAC patient.

John Nauka from Tanna Island Vanuatu is 4 yrs old and has a club foot which needs correction. He will be accompanied by Mary who has good English.

John's arrival has been delayed due to an injury to the foot needing surgery. The surgeon has finally agreed that the foot is now healthy enough to operate on.

John's surgery will be done at St Vincent's Private in the city following initial consultations which will be on August 12th.

We urgently need assistance with home hosting and /or attending medical appointments until end of September. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience Rotary at work and be part of changing a child's life forever.

We have hosted many children and can guarantee that you receive far more than you give.! No medical experience is necessary, just a loving heart.

For further information do not hesitate to contact me,
Gavan McIntyre
RC Wandin
d9815chair@romac.org.au

We are invited to join with Rotary Eynesbury to celebrate their changeover High Tea. Use the link to book directly.

Come along and bring your friends to our own Rotary Club of Essendon meeting.

Tuesday 07/07/26 at Windy Hill Venue, Essendon.

Come for dinner at 6pm and then on to our meeting at 7pm.

We look forward to seeing you!





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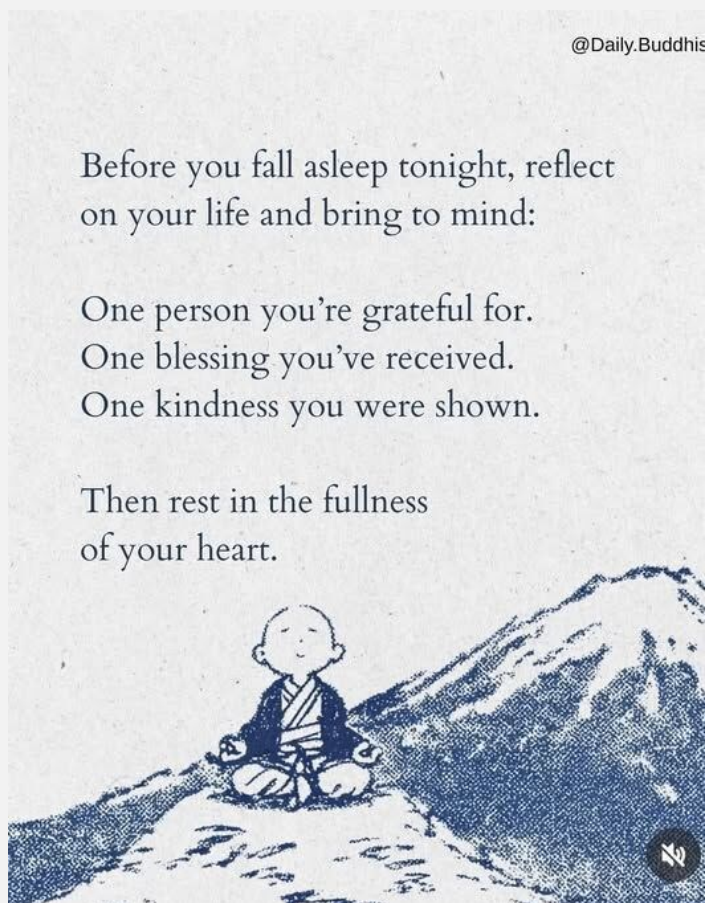
My grandfather once told me that there were two kinds of people: those who do the work and those who take the credit. He told me to try to be in the first group; there was much less competition.

— Indira Gandhi —

AZ QUOTES

President Denis and Maxine invite you to visit our website and join us in the future.

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



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WE THANK OUR WONDERFUL DUCK RACE SPONSORS.

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