

From: Rotary Club of Essendon admin1.rce.org.au@clubrunner.email
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C O N T A C T

Date: 7 July 2026
Volume 92:01

President Dennis Kosnar
Editor: John Odgers

www.rce.org.au

President Denis Kosnar welcomed us to our first meeting of the Rotary year and asked for a rundown of each Committee's objectives with current achievements and near term plans.

PP Michael Portelli introduced Joe Tumburro. Joe has 35 years experience working in the IT industry and is now enjoying semi retirement.





Michael Portelli then spoke about projects that were initiated by our club and are now running under their own steam. Some of these include the Rowallan Scout camp, The Essendon Traffic school and the Moonee Valley Bee keeping club. He encouraged members to put forward ideas which might be taken up by the club. The sale of street signs was one of our most successful projects which was proposed by Maureen Mollica, wife of past member Morris Mollica.

Valmae, Chair of Club Services spoke of an exciting evening on July 21, 7 - 8 pm as enumerated below

OIL BAR EXPERIENCE

We're excited to invite you to a unique and interactive Olive Oil Bar Experience hosted by Ben & Lee from The Good Oil Club.

This is not your typical tasting - it is a fun, hands-on journey into the world of premium extra virgin olive oil. On the night, you'll:

Taste a range of carefully selected award-winning premium extra virgin olive oils, learn how they are different to typical supermarket oils.

Learn how to smell and taste olive oil like a professional, discovering the aromas, flavours, and textures that define true quality.

Understand how olive oil is made and what terms like extra virgin, cold extracted, filtered, and high polyphenol really mean.

GET THE LOW DOWN

Discover why high-quality extra virgin olive oil is considered one of the healthiest foods in the Mediterranean diet (and the world).

Bust the myth that you shouldn't cook with olive oil - and learn how to use different oils with different foods.

Enjoy an engaging, sensory experience designed to change the way you see (and taste) olive oil forever.

SPECIAL OFFER

As members of The Rotary Club of Essendon., we are offering 30 spots gratis (Normally \$30 per person) to the first to register via the club.

At the end of the session, you'll have the opportunity to purchase your favourite oils or join The Good Oil Club's monthly subscription, where we deliver you some of the world's finest olive oils straight to your hearts & kitchen. We look forward to sharing a delicious and eye opening evening with you.

www.thegoodoilclub.com

Please make a commitment by registering via our website as Val needs the numbers by 20th July, Monday prior to the meeting for Leanne to have the right number of tastings available on the night of our meeting.

Therefore RSVP asap Via Club Runner Invitation.

Treasurer Sunil update.

1. Treasurer Sunil announced that progress has been made in arranging the "Curry Night" The Treasurer also emphasised that the event was mainly a fundraising event to help *Youth who have been made homeless due to family violence and substance abuse.*
2. Treasurer Sunil also stated that an email motion to the RCE Board will be presented for approval prior to making any advance payment to the selected venue.

Financial situation of the RCE

1. Sunil informed the members of the financial position and the current bank balances as well as future commitments.

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2. It was mentioned that the annual RCE Budget was completed and there are projects such as the *Comedy for a cause* and the *Duck Race* which will be profitable and will have the greatest impact and result in a **better return on effort**.

Christine Hilbert, Chair of Community Projects gave an informative summary of this committee's achievements and plans for the near term.

Tony de Fazio, Chair of the International Committee

To explain, the context the International committee is one of the 5 Avenues of Rotary Service and comprises those activities that members do to advance international understanding, goodwill and positive peace by fostering acquaintance with people of other countries, their cultures, customs, accomplishments, aspirations and problems, through reading and correspondence and through cooperation in all club activities and projects designed to help people in other lands.

The committee members are myself as chair, Tim Anderson, Anne Ramsay, Sunil Prerera, Tim Anderson, Peter Halaseh, and John Odgers.

I acknowledge the work commitment and passion of former member Richard Lawrence.

The committee received around a \$200,000 bequest many years ago and our humanitarian efforts and support has centred around the following: Noting at this time funds have been expended to the point that we have

Myanmar/Kenya Account – JUNE 2026 Bank Balance \$31,917.65

Myanmar A/C Bank Balance \$27,531.39

Kenya A/C Bank Balance \$4,386.26 – after paying Mukuru slum School Kenya \$3,030

TOTAL \$31,917.65

Myanmar

- Hope for Myanmar Children's Home. RCE Funding of \$7004 to build a new Kitchen and Dining Hall also fund the tables and chairs \$1,200.
- RCE Delegation supplies children's clothing for various ages - carried over by members during visit in Nov 2024 value \$100
- RCE supplies sports balls and play equipment for children all "muled" by delegates to Myanmar Nov 2024 value \$250
- RCE funds \$1,000 of food and groceries for the HMCH as cost of living crisis hits Myanmar with high inflation.
- Supply of PC for "Run" the manager of the HMCH by delegation Value \$800
- Mary Chapman School for Deaf Children
- RCE funds sports balls and equipment for 600 students, value \$300 "muled" by delegates to Myanmar.
 - RCE funds Café equipment for training of students, value \$3,000
 - RCE to fund the renovation of an in door sports/play area for the children to use during the wet season, value \$8000

Myanmar Liver Foundation

- Collected 60kg of new syringes and needles in Australia for the MLF to use for vaccinations and "muled" to Myanmar- value \$10,000. 6.5% of population Hepatitis B and approx 3 M chronic H B patients

Step In Step Up Vocational Training (SISU)

- RCE funded the Padauk Vocational Training of 15-18 y/o for 2024 - 2025. Value \$36,000 with all students graduating and 30 new students starting in Dec 2025.
- Rotary Foundation District Grant approved for \$8,000 for the above Padauk programme, payable in the next Rotary year.
- Royce and Jean Abbey Scholarship approved for Monica (Operations Manager) from SISU who spent 5 weeks in Melbourne training and presented to RCE.
- RCE with our RAWCS funds over 100+ Earthquake Kits supplied by SISU for the victims

who are displaced after the Earthquake in April 2025.

- RCE funds sports balls and equipment for students at SISU. Value \$300
 - RCE funds 200 solar study lights for SISU students - \$800 Kenya
 - RCE sponsored Greg Barake from Kenya on a Vocational Training program to Australia for 3 months in conjunction with the Catholic Rice Foundation. Value \$5500
 - RCE funded the education of 6 students at the Mukuru Slum Primary School in Nairobi for their education expenses for 12 months value \$3,000
 - RCE funded the Dental Chair and the Medical waste incinerator at the Ruben centre in Nairobi. Value \$5,000
- Bahay Tuluayan instrumental in receiving a \$50,000 grant for development of a self sustaining farm and training facility for young people

Other Activities

- (300.00) (726.00) Balibo community Timor Leste - motion 27/05/26
- RCE assists DIK with rental – value \$3,500
- We considered a project in Jordan but it didn't happen but may in the future
- Our Sri Lanka project from before Covid was completed and we are considering a new project initiative in that country.

Aim of committee:

- ☐ Consider further ongoing projects with the area mentioned above
- ☐ Consider fund raising initiatives, including foundation grants
- ☐ Explore other areas of global need

OFFICERS of the club are:

Sam Tartaglia.....Trusty vice President, Legal Protection Officer,
Stephen Roe.....Incredible Secretary
Lisa Lowcock.....Contact, Men`s Shed, Duck Race 2IC
Roger Leask.....Royce Abbey Awards
John Odgers.....DIK Representative
Steve Chandler..Duck Race chairman, Historian
Christine Hilbert..Comedy For A Cause
Michael Portelli...Membership, Bee Club

The CLUB OBJECTIVES

presented by President Dennis are

- To stabilise our club
- promote goodwill
- cooperation and harmony

This has been proven in the last 6 months. He emphasised that we must have informative, enjoyable meetings and good social activity to promote commitment and enthusiasm.

We need to continue with our **traditional charities** which have achieved so much over the last year despite some difficulties. Many local projects have been successfully completed, including the following:

- Scholarships.....Myanmar, Ryla Mental Health
- Charities Duck Race
- Youth Projects Great social activities
- Days For Girls Milers Mckenzie Studies

Some International Projects include:

- Myanmar
- Kenya
- Sri Lanka Stroke Victims
- Polio.....Rotary Foundation
- DIK
- Balibo Community Learning Centre (Timor Leste)

We probably have to shelve the Art Show this year and focus on the **Duck Race** as being our major event/income. This will involve the whole club to be engaged. Steve Chandler

has more plans to improve /expand the duck race for extra benefit.

We should **focus on .Youth & Mental Health**

Find our ideal match charity partner.

Could be: Youth Projects (Hosier lane and Glenroy)

Australian Rotary Health which haveMental Health Research

General Health research

Indigenous Health Scholarships

Rural Medical and Nursing Scholarships

Many other options.....Helping Hands etc.

It is essential to compile and keep an up to date **grants list** with a Grant`s officer.....Jenny Mann, Shirley Kukk

Committee meetings as per Forum, at EFC every 2nd Tuesday. Benefits are:

1.organized & fuss free

2.can cross reference with others

Have a **Membership Drive** to increase support:

Club members seek through acquaintance

Something like "Farmer`s market"

Speak at Trader`s Group

Other groups?RSL?

As well as new members, find a group of willing volunteers to help as needed.

To sum up: we do have an active year of activities

We aim to enjoy the year ahead

We aim to achieve objectives together

Together we hope to "Unite For Good" and "Create Lasting Impact"

President Dennis looks forward to the year ahead with you.

Upcoming Events

[Olive Tasting Meeting](#)

Jul 21, 2026

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

[Thai Curry Night](#)

Aug 14, 2026

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

[View entire list](#)



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