

C O N T A C T

Club meeting Tuesday 06/10/2026
Windy Hill Venue, Cnr. Napier & Brewster St, Essendon 3040

October is Economic and Community Development Month



Rotary International Key Focus Areas

- **Empowering Entrepreneurs:** Building capacity for local business leaders, community networks, and entrepreneurs in underserved areas.
- **Sustainable Growth:** Investing in long-term economic improvements rather than immediate, short-term charity.
- **Job Creation:** Developing opportunities for productive work and microfinance initiatives.

Important Dates in October

- **World Polio Day:** Celebrated globally on **October 24th** to raise awareness for polio eradication.
- **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty:** Observed on **October 17th**.

District Governor's official visit

This week we welcomed our D9800 District Governor Graeme Hope and his wife Susan from the Rotary Club of Camberwell.

Graeme joined in 2003 and has had a busy time since then taking leadership roles such as serving as Club President, Art Show Chair, Hawthorn Makers Market Chair, Assistant Governor, and District Chair of Club Service. Graeme's professional life was as a chartered accountant and he worked for 35 years as a financial and investment adviser.

- PEOPLE OF ACTION * INSPIRE * LASTING IMPACT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS
- * SET MEASURABLE GOALS; if you can't measure it you can't manage it
- * DO BETTER THAN OUR BEST AND BETTER THAN WHAT WE'VE DONE BEFORE
- WHAT CHANGE HAS BEING A ROTARIAN SPARKED IN US?



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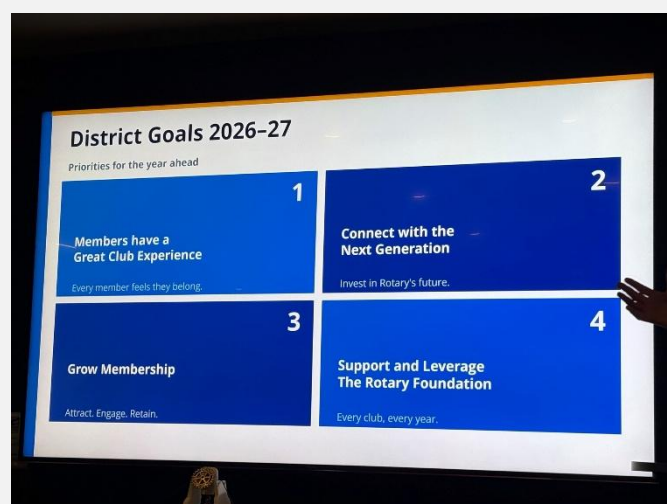
DG Graeme presented us with reflections on the inspirational speeches of our Rotary International President Olayinka Babalola. We all find times when our energy levels wane and we need a little pick me up from others to renew our enthusiasm for Rotary. It's hard to be *people of action* all the time.

Graeme gave us some goals and priorities to focus our attention on what we can do to make Rotary better than it has ever been.

1. Give members a great experience and make them feel like they belong
2. Connect with the next generation as an investment in to Rotary's future
3. Grow membership; attract, engage and retain
4. Support and leverage for the Rotary Foundation

To attract younger members Graeme suggested the following;

1. Make our meeting structures more flexible to suit more of our younger community.
2. Rebuild and refresh our website. Most people look at websites before they take action to go contact the club or go to a meeting. The look and feel of it reflects on us and how we would be seen.
3. Work on our social media. It's the way to reach people. Posts need to be regular, interesting, engaging and create a reason why someone would want to go the next step and join in what we do.
4. Think about our public image. How do we want to be seen in the community? If we are seen as a fuddy duddy old bunch of sedentary has-beens then who would even think about joining the club. Identify how we want to be seen and do what we need to do to be seen as people of action.
5. Make sure we have events to showcase the club in the community.



YOU DESERVE TO BE CONGRATULATED.....

PAUL HARRIS FELLOW RECOGNITIONS are given to people who make a significant contribution to Rotary, financially or by their actions.

Two people from one family have for many years supported the club in many and varied ways. But none more so than in recent times when the idea of having a rubber duck race on the Maribyrnong River was first raised by their husband and father.

Pam and Ryan Chandler were presented with PHF pins in recognition of the huge amount of time and effort they have contributed to the Duck Races. Neither is a Rotarian but as is often the case they are as active as any member. The family of Rotary is indeed a wonderful thing. Thankyou Pam and Ryan for all you do.

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For a Rotarian to have been a President of two clubs and to have contributed as much as he has and to not already have been recognised with a PHF is mystifying. We were all shocked! Now this has been rectified as Tony DeFazio has been presented with a Paul Harris Fellowship Recognition. Tony not only led the club through some difficult times with fine consideration and skill and we are extremely grateful for his wisdom. He has reviewed and updated our club policies of Code of Conduct, Mutual Respect, Governance and has now been appointed to a role in the Sth Pacific Governance role. Tony has always been supported by his wife Elena whom Tony thanked during his acceptance speech. Congratulations Tony.

LIFETIME HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

It's not often that people receive a lifetime honorary membership to the Rotary Club of Essendon. So, when someone is you know that they have to be a really special person.

Shirley Kukk is one such person.

Shirley was a member of the club for many years and during that time has held many roles of responsibility including President. Shirley was an integral part of many international projects, sourcing funding through the many grants she applied for and successfully received from Rotary Foundation. Shirley and Ray travelled on many delegations ensuring the funds and donations were appropriately administered as accountability was crucial to her. Shirley organised many functions and was always available and reliable with her time and skills. Thanks for all you and Ray have done to make our projects so successful Shirley.

We were so happy to see Shirley and Ray attend our meeting and hope they visit again soon.



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DG GRAEME HOPE WITH THE BOARD OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF ESSENDON



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COMEDY FOR A CAUSE

Sunday 11th October 2026 to the Essendon Bowls Club, 50 Raleigh Street, Essendon VIC 3040

A great crowd turned up on Sunday ready for an afternoon of fun and laughs and they were not disappointed. From the experienced to the novice, the stand-up comedians did their best to get a giggle out of all of us. The range of one liners was many and varied and tickled the old funny bones.

Huge thanks go to Christine and her team for organising this fun event which again raised much needed funds for our club to utilise in supporting our projects.

ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL NICU DONATION



It takes a village to raise a child. And it takes a lot of money and people with skill and dedication to take care of the most sick and vulnerable little babies in our city.

The Rotary Club of Essendon was part of a group of clubs who united to purchase a specialist bed for the Butterfly Ward at the Royal Children's Hospital. The ward specialises in neonatal intensive care and cares for over 850 babies each year who come from Victoria, Tasmania and NSW. The babies come with a wide range of medical and surgical issues and utilise the whole range of specialist teams at the hospital.

We are proud to be a part of saving these precious little lives.

See Doriana pointing out our contribution on the recognition board.

NEIL SHEPHERD FUNERAL

Past District Governor Peter Shephard's father Neil has passed away.

Neil's funeral will be Wednesday 14th October with Funeral Mass at Sacred Heart Newport at 11am, then burial at Memorial Park Altona at 12.30pm which will be followed by refreshments at Memorial Park.

Rotarians are invited to attend.

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LICENCE TO KILL.....CANCER.

WEHI (WALTER AND ELIZA HALL INSTITUTE) is holding a special event as part of the Seniors Festival.

Event Details

- **Speakers:** Professor Shalin Naik and Dr Sara Tomei
- **Topic:** How the immune system's frontline "spy" cells (dendritic cells) can be supercharged to locate and destroy solid tumours like bowel cancer
- **Date:** October 29, 2026
- **Time:** 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM AEDT
- **Location:** WEHI, 1G Royal Parade, Parkville, VIC, or available to join online from anywhere
- **Cost:** Free (registrations required) use this link to register

<https://www.wehi.edu.au/support-us/license-to-kill-cancer/>

END POLIO WALK WEST AND TAKE YOUR DOG!

The End Polio Walk West 2026 is hosted by the Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington on World Polio Day, Saturday, October 24, 2026. [1]

Event Details

- **Date:** Saturday, October 24, 2026
- **Time:** 11:00 am – 1:00 pm AEDT
- **Starting Location:** Maribyrnong Road (near Woods Street), Ascot Vale, VIC 3032
- **Ending Location:** Anglers Tavern (walking around the Maribyrnong River)
- **Cost / Registration:** Free to join; donations and fundraising go toward Rotary's End Polio Now campaign.
- **Special Notes:** Dogs are welcome to join the walk.

COMING UP SOON.....

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 20th October.

There is no meeting on Tuesday 3rd November as it is Melbourne Cup Day.

Tuesday November 17th is our AGM. It is important we all make an effort to attend.

Our Christmas Party is on Tuesday 1st December and more information will be coming soon.

The last meeting for 2026 will be the traditional Breakfast meeting on Tuesday 15th December.