

# Contact

PO Box 161 Essendon VIC 3040

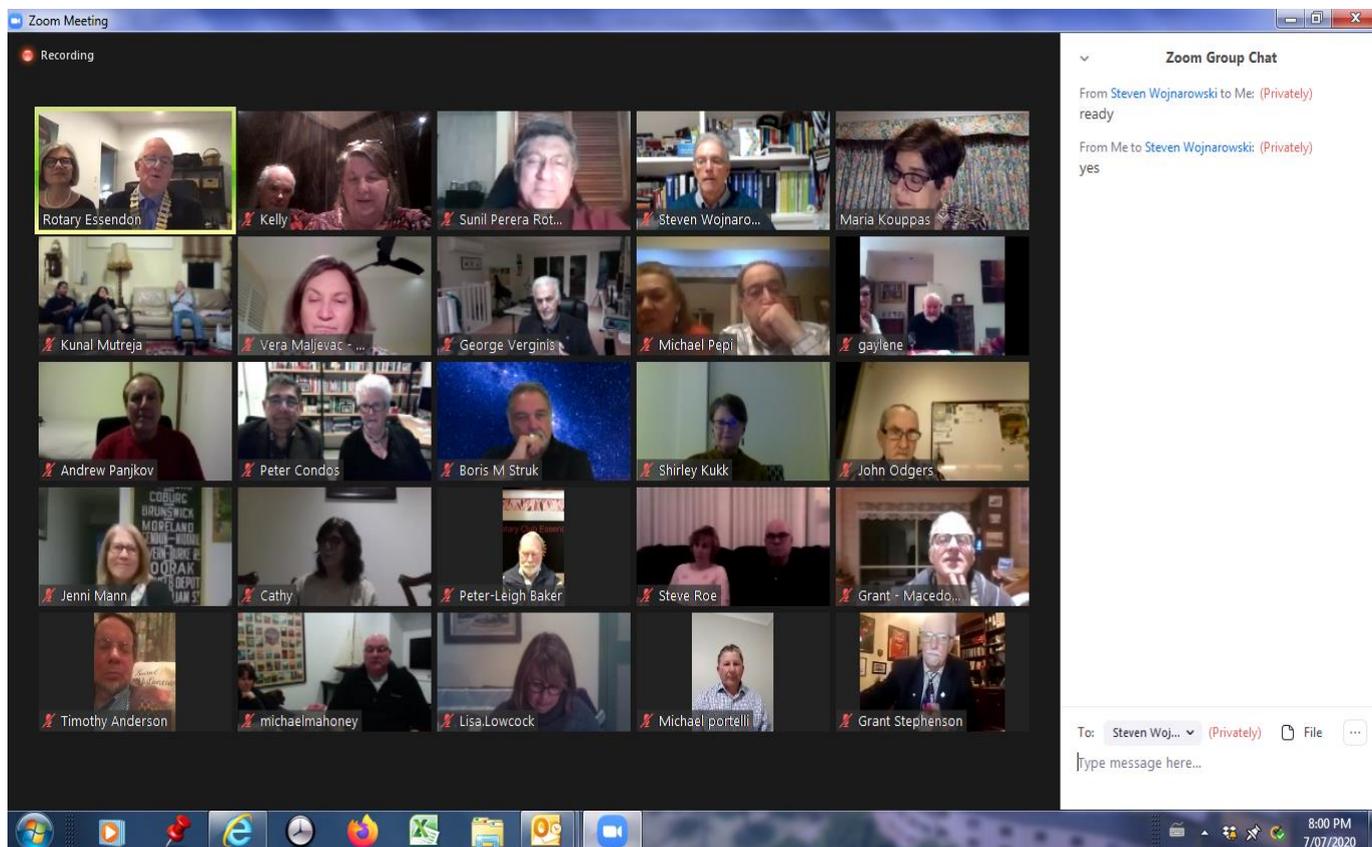
Rotary  
Club of Essendon

ABN 91036600532



D9800

## Online Club meeting 7 July 2020 – Changeover and President's night



A total of 36 members and guests booked into the annual and combined President's Night and Changeover Night. Our guests included Honorary Member Michael Pepi and Judy, Sue Condos, Kerry Row, Cindy Abbey, Gaye Cariss, Vic Abfalter, Neil Henderson and George Verginis, the Past President of RC of Kew and a long-standing friend of Peter Condos. We may have missed a few members who joined us on the night.

Vice-President Maria Kouppas of Studio 3040 welcomed all those attending. Maria and Steve Wojnarowski ensured that the combined meeting ran smoothly.

### President Kelly Abfalter's last observations as outgoing President

Maria introduced President Kelly Abfalter for the last time as President. Kel noted that we all should be proud of what we've achieved in her year as President. She has thoroughly enjoyed the year and acknowledged the on-going support that the Board provided. She noted the strong help she received from Vice President Maria Kouppas, Past President Veronica O'Sullivan and President-Elect David Abbey who has been 'gearing up' for the Presidential changeover.



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President – David Abbey



Kel thanked Cathy Nicou for her work in the marketing area and in liaising with the Caroline Chisholm Society. She noted that Steve Roe has once more performed at a consistently high level as Club Secretary and his secretarial / administrative contributions make the Board's job considerably easier. Kel also commended Jenni Mann on her role as Treasurer.

Kel acknowledged Sunil Perera's achievement, with the generous help of Shirley Kukk, of gaining a grant for our first Sri Lankan project and she thanked Michael Portelli for his work in the youth area, and Peter Condos for 'always being there'. Grant Sheldon was thanked for his work on the Art Show and John Odgers for the significant work he contributes in putting **Contact** together.

Kel concluded her brief review of the 2019-2020 year by observing that a number of new members were present tonight and they constitute the life blood of our club. This is not to decry the role of long-standing members, several of whom were thanked by President Kel.

### **Changeover ceremony**

The moment came for President Kelly to become Past Present Kelly and for President Elect David to become President David. Cindy Abbey formally placed the President's chain on David. Past President Kel observed that it was an honour to induct David Abbey as the eighty-sixth President of the Rotary Club of Essendon. On behalf of all members of the club Past President Kel pledged our support and loyalty.

### **President David's first meeting**

David firstly thanked Past President Kel on behalf of all members for her contribution as President, particularly noting the difficult times during which she acted as President, and congratulated her on her personal development during her year.

David then introduced the new 10 member board:

Past President - Kelly Abfalter

President Elect and International Director - Sunil Perera

Vice President and Foundation Champion - Maria Kouppas

Secretary - Stephen Roe

Treasurer - Jenni Mann

Club Service Director - Boris Struk

Vocational Director - Peter Baker

Community Director - Shirley Kukk

Youth Director - Michael Portelli

President David noted that our club has a rich 85 year history, and we can proudly boast of the six District Governors and a President of Rotary International from within our ranks, and of our family of five daughter clubs, six grand-daughter clubs and five great-grand-daughter clubs. We also have 'legends' in our club right now, contributing week in, week out in diverse ways.





We have a right to be proud as members of this fine Club with such a rich history and David recommended all members revisit their edition of 'Pick of the Bunch', the wonderful history of the Rotary Club of Essendon, written by Past President Alan Murphy OAM.

President David then outlined the key themes for this year.

- Be proud of our club: celebrate and broadcast the club's 85 years of contribution and achievement.
- The importance of meetings: he asked members to make an effort to regularly attend meetings.
- Vibrant meetings: the board will work towards presenting a vibrant meeting program.
- Membership growth: we need to develop and grow our membership through individual efforts with the ambitious membership growth target of 85 members over the next 3 years.
- Projects: at the same time we will maintain our support of our existing projects.

David also highlighted a few new initiatives for the 2020/21 year:

- The reintroduction of the Vocational Services Committee with Peter Baker as chair.
- Andrew Panjkov has been appointed Environmental and Sustainability Champion to acknowledge Rotary International's new Seventh Area of Focus.
- Jane Carbone will be the club's representative for Homelessness issues and projects.
- Cathy Nicou has accepted the role of addressing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion issues and pointed out the already rich cultural diversity which has been a major factor in the growth of the club.

President David ended his first address with a reminder to us all that the year ahead will have unprecedented challenges with Covid-19. We must look for ways we can assist and thrive as a club in these challenging times. We need a vibrant and motivated membership which enjoys being part of this club or our achievements will fall away or be left to only a few committed Rotarians.

### **President's Night – A Performance to Honour Past President Kelly.**

A Rotary Club of Essendon tradition has been maintained in difficult circumstances, with Peter Baker, Steven Roe and Maria Kouppas in front of the camera and the inscrutable Roger Leask as technical director and 'camera' operator to create a recorded President's Skit.

Peter Baker alias Ed McGuire played the role of quiz master. His first victim was Vic Abfalter (played by Steven Roe) who had just finished some sets of tennis at the Keilor Tennis Club (if my memory serves correctly). Vic did not shine at answering quiz questions, even simple ones like what is two plus two. Impatiently Ed informed Vic that as an accountant he should know that the answer is whatever the client wants it to be.

PP Kel, a gun tennis player, in the guise of Maria Kouppas, performed incredibly well in answering several quite challenging questions. Perhaps unsurprisingly her answers were embellished with several rounds of 'and stuff like that'. Finally she observed that it will happen when it happens, in other words in Kelly time.



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## Final thanks

Everyone attending deserves a thank you. President David's final words: 'we look forward to a great year.'

## Days for Girls Seeks Your Support



Once again, the Days for Girls team we support is running a fundraiser by selling the [Entertainment Book](#). This year the book has gone fully digital and can be shared with others. There are also bonus months of membership from 14 to 17 months depending on when the membership is activated, plus several other special bonuses. All the details and how to buy are in the attachment.

The Days for Girls team is fully self-funded and has been unable to do any fundraising this year. Please consider buying an Entertainment Book and passing on this information to anyone else you know who might be interested. Last year the team raised approximately \$1000 and would love your support trying to do so again.

[Click here for details and a link to the Days for Girls Fundraising Page.](#)

## Men's Shed update

The Shed closed down on Wednesday 8 July 2020 in line with the 6 week shut down that commenced at midnight on that day.

## Next meetings

**Regular Club Meeting via Zoom: 12.45 for 1.00 pm 21 July 2020.**

Details and Zoom Meeting Invitation will follow

**7 August - 6pm to 9 pm Cocktail Party at Moonee Valley Chamber (TBC)** In support of the Bushfire Relief Fund

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