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Evening Meeting Report – 4 August 2020

Welcome

Shirley Kukk, as chair for the evening, welcomed attendees, acknowledged and paid respects to the traditional custodians of the land, and introduced President David Abbey. There were 26 members in attendance (some honorary) out of a possible 45 active members.

President's Report

President David welcomed all in attendance and again encouraged members to make contact with those who have not been attending. Make sure they are travelling okay and provide them with encouragement to keep in touch and, if necessary, provide some technical advice for attending a Zoom meeting.

President David also thanked those who have accepted the invitation to make a financial contribution to the club by paying the voluntary meeting registration fee. These contributions will help replace the income the club no longer receives from face to face meetings at the Anglers Tavern.

Committee Reports

Community: **Shirley Kukk**.

Stage 1 of the hand sanitiser project is developing with the first allocation of boxes provided by Michael Mahoney being distributed to local Rotary clubs. (See notes in the President's Message)

Royce Abbey Awards: **Maria Kouppas**.

At the end of the 2019-20 year, 409 awards had been presented with another four presented in recent weeks. An amazing achievement!

Maria also acknowledged some milestones:

Happy birthday to members: Veronica, Jane C., Pat O'C., Steve W., Stephen R., Maurice M., Peter B., Cathy N. and Jenni M.

Birthday wishes to partners of members: Kerry R., John K., Pat Chad. We hope you had a great day.

Happy Rotary Anniversary to: Kunal M, Nola S and Walwin B, all one year, to Aaron L and Daniel G, two years, Anne R and Michael P, 11 years, Maria K 20 years, Shirley K 22 years, Denis K 23 years, Tim A 24 years, Roger P 29 years and President David A 33 years.

Thank you to you all for your contribution and dedication to Rotary.

The first **Zoom Raffle** was drawn by **Boris Struk** and won by **Maria Kouppas**. Congratulations to Maria and thank you to all those who entered the raffle.



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Rotary
Club of Essendon

ABN 91036600532



D9800

Guest speakers

Our two guest speakers for the evening were our own members, **Nola Spicer** and **Vera Maljevac**, who both joined the club within the last two years. Both women have been actively involved in club activities since they joined and have made a huge contribution in a very short time. Both have a background in education, and both have also expanded their knowledge and careers with further study and experiences.

Vera Maljevac has had a lifetime devoted to education. She has had a career as a teacher and achieved a Masters Degree in Education at 50 years of age. Vera provided a fascinating firsthand reflection on the impact that COVID-19 is having at the Kangan Institute and in the education arena generally.

Students have had to adapt and adjust the way they approach their studies, just as their educators have had to reflect on how they can create an effective learning environment online. Not all students and teachers have the technical skills or resources to navigate the world of online learning, with those who have English as a second language (ESL) struggling even more. Sadly, some have abandoned their studies due to these difficulties.

There are some positives. With a more flexible work timetable Vera has been able to take walks on sunny days to provide a respite from screen time.

Nola Spicer, also with a background in education, has taken a more varied approach to her career. Initially loving primary school teaching for many years, a yearning for variety led to Nola studying accounting, completing her studies at the ripe old age of 49 years. She then became a Financial Planner, providing advice both professionally and as a volunteer through The Smith Family organisation.

A serious health scare led to a reflection on her life. She retired and started travelling extensively with her husband, both locally and overseas. Nola became a Justice of the Peace, which led to her taking on the voluntary role of Bail Justice. It took at least 200 hrs of online study and many more hours of assessments and exams to qualify for this demanding role.

Nola gave us an insight into the people and situations faced by a bail justice. She was on call at inconvenient hours to make determinations as to whether alleged offenders should be remanded in custody or released on bail pending the next court date: a difficult and unappreciated role.

An amazing pair of passionate and fascinating guest speakers led to interesting questions and discussions which continued beyond the close of the meeting.

President David thanked Nola and Vera for sharing their stories and insights and thanked all who attended.

Coming Up: On-Line Bingo

Kunal announced a new and fun event coming up on **Wednesday 19/08/2020 online at 7pm:**

The RCE Inaugural Online Bingo Night! Details will be provided before the night. You will be invited to register on our website but be quick, there is a limit of 40 entries.

Please contact **Kunal Mutreja** 0405 275 555 or **Michael Mahoney** 0407 502 825 for more information.



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Rotary Exchange Programme in the News

Many Rotarians will have experienced the Rotary Exchange Programme as a host, a parent of an outgoing student or as a host of an incoming student. The current batch of incoming and outgoing exchange students were and are facing novel challenges due to COVID-19 around the world. The challenges were highlighted in an ABC News report, which can be [accessed here](#).

Rotary Club of Essendon supporting Caroline Chisholm Society during COVID19

It is with pride and satisfaction that we can report on another successful project for RCE. We were able to assist Caroline Chisholm Society (CCS) and enable them to support their clients during the current COVID19 crisis. The Club provided food and clothing items to the value of \$5,100.00 (\$2,500 received from a District Local Grant, Rotary Foundation and \$2,500.00 from RCE, with a further \$100 donated by a Rotarian).

CCS expressed gratitude and appreciation to RCE for all the baby/children's' clothing/nappies and a great variety of food items. They also posted appreciation messages and photos on social media. RCE have also shared the posts from CCS on our Facebook page. A special thanks to **Roger Priestly from IGA in Essendon** for sourcing and organising the delivery of the much-needed grocery items.

These necessary items will be distributed appropriately and improve the lives of many families who are struggling during these challenging times, particularly due to COVID19. We commend CCS for their continued efforts in providing support to their communities and pass on our good wishes. Photographs follow in this Contact.

Other News

Immediate Past President Kelly Abfalter will be attending an online membership development seminar on Saturday, so watch out, she will be filled with new ideas and motivation.

President David attended a **cluster meeting of the Gateway clubs** to Melbourne's West and had the opportunity to hear what other clubs are doing in COVID times. He used the opportunity to promote the hand sanitiser project. The clubs which had received the hand sanitisers, most attendees, were unanimous in their thanks to the RCE for its initiative. Congratulations and thanks to **Michael Mahoney, Kunal Mutreja** and the **Community Committee**.

President David also attended the D9800 Foundation Committee meeting Thursday evening. There was much discussion about how to ensure club contributions are maintained during these times. With the current fundraising uncertainty, many clubs have been reluctant to contribute to **The Rotary Foundation** at levels they have in the past.

In the midst of these somewhat depressing discussions I mentioned the hand sanitiser initiative which was greeted with congratulations. The upshot is that the RC of North Balwyn asked to be on the distribution list.

The draft amended Club Constitution and Rules and the amended Bylaws will be circulated shortly for your consideration. If there are any questions or issues, please contact either David or Steve Roe.

Our next online meeting will be held on Tuesday 18/08/2020 at 12:45 for 1:00 pm. Details and a link will be forwarded to all members ahead of the day. We look forward to your attendance.

Meeting Programme: upcoming events can be found in the [Calendar on ClubRunner](#)



Rotary Opens Opportunities

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A Message from President David

I have attended numerous Zoom meetings with Rotarians from various clubs over the last few weeks. Inevitably there is discussion about how clubs are travelling in these difficult times. Some clubs not far from Essendon are wondering how they will survive, let alone thrive.

At our changeover night I expressed my amazement at what this club achieves and has achieved in its 85 years. When I summarise what the RCE is doing it is obvious that, in comparison with most clubs, we are thriving, and we are looked upon with respect, if not envy. That is not to say we are 'doing it easy'. We still have the challenges of raising funds, engaging ALL our members in our meetings and maintaining enthusiasm and vibrancy, but I think we are doing a good job.

Please contact me if you have any questions, concerns, ideas or criticisms or even if you want to chat about how we are doing. Please keep in touch with our members and encourage them to try Zooming into a meeting once a fortnight.

You may have heard me say, 'ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT' a few times this year. Be warned, you will hear it a few more times before the year is out! See you all at our next meeting.

Thank you to **Lisa Lowcock** for taking notes for this edition of Contact.

Take Care!

Let's all try to keep a sense of humour, and for everyone's sake, follow the rules!



Contact

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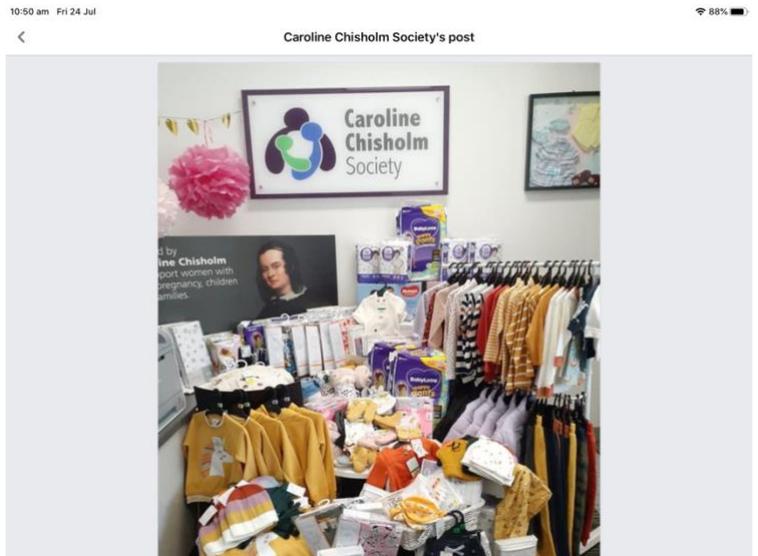
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Photographs of the delivery of items to Caroline Chisholm.



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