

Contact

Rotary
Club of Essendon



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WELCOME TO ISSUE NO. 4 – COVID-19 CONTINUES

What times we are living in! We were given a stark reminder of exactly what a State of Disaster looks like when Boris Struk stepped in as guest speaker at our last meeting to display his photographs of Melbourne taken during Stage 4 Lockdown. A report and link to the photographs follows.

Our way of life has changed, possibly permanently, and we face the challenge of adjusting as best we can. Amongst the many negatives there will be positive changes also and we must adjust. Similarly, how this Rotary Club functions has been changed. Thank you to all those members who have made an effort to stay connected and to look for ways the club can thrive.

CLUB NOTICES

LOCKDOWN BINGO: The club embarked on its first Lockdown Bingo Night on Wednesday. A success, but some members are convinced it was rigged, and not very subtly either! An enquiry has been called for. By the numbers: 'All the threes - 33' attended, profit \$645.

Congratulations to **Michael Mahoney**, **Kunal Mutreja** and the **Community Committee** for this initiative. The Bingo Fundraiser will be followed by a Trivia Night. More details to come.

SANITISERS: **Shirley Kukk** reports that the RCE has received an order for 100 bottles of hand sanitiser from the RC of Balwyn, amounting to a profit for the club of \$150. Once more our thanks are extended to **Michael Mahoney** for the donated bottles and to **Michael and Kunal** for their organisation of this project.

LIFT THE LID: **Lisa Lowcock** noted that our programme of the 15th of September will have a Lift The Lid theme. This **Australian Rotary Health** Programme has been supported by our club and will do so in the future. The speaker on the 15th will be **Michelle Trudgeon**, the proprietor of [ACT Curious Employee Assistance Programme](#). Michelle's presentation should nicely complement the theme of the day. It will also be of relevance on a Vocational Service theme. More notices to come.

YOUTH SERVICES: **Peter Duras** recently spoke to the **Youth Committee** about possible club involvement in **Youth Projects Ltd** in Glenroy, which aims to reduce the extent of youth disconnection. It is a project the Youth Committee may take on board.

APPROVAL OF AMENDED CONSTITUTION, RULES AND BYLAWS: Steve Roe, Club Secretary, reminded us of the **Special Annual General Meeting on 1 September**, called to approve the amended documentation. Proxy voting is allowed for the first time and Steve can provide more details if needed.

PERSONAL NOTICES: We have received some sad news of the recent passing of **Pearl Honson** on the 17th of August. To those who are not long-term members, Pearl was the wife of Honorary and Legendary club



Rotary Opens Opportunities

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member, **Jack Honson**. A card and flowers have been sent on behalf of the Club. Our condolences to Jack and family.

We have also been advised that **Michael Cariss'** father is not well. Best wishes to Michael and family on behalf of all members.

On a more positive note we congratulate **Grant and Margie Sheldon** on becoming Grandparents for the first time! See photograph and entry below.

CLUB MEETING REPORT – 18 AUGUST 2020

Our scheduled guest speaker, **Michael Warshall**, was struck ill and he considerably sent Boris Struk an apology from his hospital bed at 4 am Tuesday! Boris kindly stepped in as replacement speaker. We wish Michael a speedy recovery and hope to hear from him later in the Rotary year.

GUEST SPEAKER – PP BORIS STRUK: MELBOURNE UNDER LOCKDOWN

Our stand-in speaker did not disappoint. Boris shared 21 eerie and hypnotising images he captured of the heart of Melbourne in lock down. Boris wanted to photograph on a foggy, grey morning to reinforce the starkness and isolation of some of our city centre landmarks. With permission from the relevant authorities, Boris entered the CBD at 7.30 am on July 16, 2020, and went to work. Boris' only complaint was directed at the army of 'tradies' who managed to occupy all the available on-street parking!

Many of our City's most well-known and heavily frequented landmarks were either totally devoid of people or occupied by one or two lone individuals, who looked as if they had just landed on a deserted planet or devastated city. The only image capturing joy and animation is the one of Past President (2009-2010) **Anne Rogers** waving at Boris from an above ground balcony.

The photographs are challenging and of historic significance and can be accessed on Boris' website, [BMS Photography](#) or go directly to [Melbourne Under Lockdown](#).

Boris completed his presentation with some quite different photographs taken on a visit to **Sir Richard Branson's private game reserve in South Africa**. They can also be viewed on [Boris's web site](#).

DISCUSSION

Cr. Richard Lawrence reported on the current situation in Moonee Valley. Things are grim for local businesses and there is not a lot that the local council can do to provide support. Most council services are closed. Other attendees shared personal experiences of life and activity in their parts of Essendon – some areas are quite busy, at least where it comes to outdoor exercise, whereas others are very quiet.

President David advised that we have a 'healthy' list of speakers for the rest of the year and the Club Service Committee has the challenge of accommodating them into our meeting programme. He again urged members to embrace the remote meeting technology and make the most of it. It is all we have!

President David closed the meeting with best wishes to Michael Waring for a full and speedy recovery.



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MARIA KOUPPAS' REPORT



At our last meeting Maria Kouppas presented some very exciting news about the arrival on 8th of August of **Margie and Grant Sheldon's first grand-daughter, Harlee Kara Sheldon**. Without any bias at all we are told that 'she's perfect. Nan and pop are so thrilled.' It was great to see the new grandparents at the Bingo Night, still beaming!

A NEW DRESS CODE?

Maria also informed us that our traditional club dress code of a checked flannelette shirt has been replaced by a full lycra outfit. This is confirmed by a photo in a recent edition of the **District 9800 Networker** that included an interview and a photograph of **President David and first lady Cindy** somewhere near a famous French mountain, both clad in the very same lycra. Keep your eyes peeled for a Board agenda item! For the complete Networker article [click here](#).



THE STORY OF THE PLATE



Charter members meet with Rotary's Founder Harris and Angus Mitchell in March 1935.

Back: Michael McMahon, George Woodhouse, James Gowrie, Syd Newing.

Centre: Leslie Gordon, John Edgar, Alf Carey, Arthur Showers, William Johnson, Brian O'Callaghan, Fountieroy Pugh, Harry Gyles.

Front: Allan Showers, Phillip Salmon, Angus Mitchell, Paul Harris, William Reid, Walter Rose, Nelson Wellington, Eric Stinton.

Absent: Robert Gilbertson.

How are these two photographs related?

The photograph on the left was sent to us by **Ange McCormack**. The plate was found amongst Ange's parents' personal belongings after their recent passing.

The photograph on the right is of the charter members of the Rotary Club of Essendon in 1935. As well as a few notable identities in the photograph, **Paul Harris, the Founder of Rotary, and Angus Mitchell, Australia's first President of Rotary International**, the member at the top right is **Syd Newing**.

As Ange revealed, Syd Newing was her Great Uncle, an influential member of the Essendon community who 'owned half of Essendon', a committed Essendon Rotarian and the owner of the plate. Ange, an Essendon resident, assumed the plate may have been presented to an Essendon delegation to Nagoya. Did we want the plate?

Rotarians **Maurice Mollica, Stephen Chandler and Alan Murphy** went to work, apparently culminating in a call to the **Rotary Club of Nagoya** for an answer.

Syd Newing was a member of a delegation of Australian Rotarians who travelled to Nagoya in 1937.

Maurice reported to Alan Murphy:

A national delegation of Australian Rotarians visited areas to our north and attended a meeting of the Rotary Club of Nagoya on 23rd March 1937. The delegation comprised Rotarians from different parts of the country and presumably each of the delegation was given a plate. Newing was part of the delegation.

Whilst how the plate came into Ange McCormack's possession is interesting, the contribution made by Syd Newing to this club's history is of greater interest. He travelled widely and helped initiate the long term relationship this club has had with the Rotary Club of Wembley, England.

For those interested, some of the source documents uncovered can be found in ClubRunner and [on this link](#).

And yes, the Plate is now in the care and custody of Maurice Mollica!

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