

Contact

Rotary
Club of Essendon



PO Box 161 Essendon VIC 3040

ABN 91036600532

D9800

Editor: John Odgers

President: David Abbey president@rce.org.au

Date: Volume: 86 Issue 09

This Issue prepared by David Abbey. Notes taken by Lisa Lowcock

STOP PRESS! THE ROTARY CLUB OF ESSENDON'S COMBINED AGM AND GENERAL MEETING RUNS ON TIME! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

After some nervous preparation by your President, Secretary, Immediate Past President, Treasurer, President-Elect, Vice President and Andrew Panjkov, our chair for the regular meeting, we achieved a first, we ran a combined Rotary Annual General Meeting and Regular Meeting on time, to the minute! A District, if not a Rotary International, recognition is expected any time soon!

The 2020 Annual General Meeting

Yes, there were some nervous moments, but our General Meeting of the 17th of November worked seamlessly. Kelly as Immediate Past President and David as current President delivered their reports and Jenni Man delivered her comprehensive Treasurer's report. Our Board for 2021/22 was filled and announced by Sunil. A copy of the Minutes with reports annexed will be made available to all members once prepared.

Please read the reports when they are distributed. Our club is in good health, and our future is in good hands!

Club Meeting of the 17th November 2020

An aim for the year is to present an interesting and varied programme to ensure members want to attend our meetings, even remote meetings, rather than being obliged to attend. Our meeting on Tuesday was one not to be missed.

Lots of club news was delivered and numerous upcoming events were announced. (See below) We were privileged to hear from an outstanding speaker in **Andrew Mahar AM**, a person who is making a difference in the world. Who would have imagined that subsistence farmers in Timor Leste could be players in the World Carbon Market, for the benefit of their communities and their country? A summary of Andrew's background and organisation, as well as a summary of his presentation, are annexed to this Contact. Andrew's presentation on Zoom was recorded and after some editing, it will be available for members to access, whether they missed the meeting or want to hear about those smart nails once again!

Sad News

Sonny Japay, an Assistant Governor, Royce Abbey Awardee and a member of the Rotary Club of Manila Maynilad Seafont, passed away on the 13th of October following by-pass surgery on the 7th October.

Sonny is well known to many members of the club. He assisted in a number of matching grants supporting Bahay Tuluyan and was an enthusiastic supporter of the Royce Abbey Award programme. He was recently appointed a Royce Abbey Award Ambassador, the first overseas Rotarian to take on that role. He will be missed by many here and in the Philippines.

Rotary
District 9800



Rotary Opens
Opportunities

www.rce.org.au

Contact

Rotary
Club of Essendon



PO Box 161 Essendon VIC 3040

ABN 91036600532

D9800

Upcoming Events (check your calendars and watch out for announcements)

18 November – Art Show Meeting. The 18th was the first meeting of the RCE Art Show Committee. The Committee consists of Kelly (chair), David A, Steve Chandler, Nola Spicer, Tony De Fazio and Denis Kosnar.

Our thanks to Grant Sheldon, Veronica O'Sullivan and Maria Kouppas, longstanding members of the committee, and to Vera Maljevac, all of whom have retired from the committee. Thankfully they have expressed their willingness to assist in 2021. Planning is underway for the weekend of 15th May. All hands on deck.

24 November – Board Meeting – comments and suggestions welcome.

27 November – 'Everyday Conversations' is an on-line training session to challenge contributing factors to gender based violence in non-crisis situations. This event is hosted and organised by the Moonee Valley City Council and sponsored by Rotary in the sum of \$2,750.00. (RCE \$1,375.00 and a matching Foundation Local Grant \$1,375.00)
Congratulations to the Community Committee and to Cathy Nicou. Thanks to the D9800 Foundation Grants Committee.

1 December – A Christmas Party is being planned, and yes, a face-to-face meeting may be possible. Watch this space.

**CHRISTMAS IS COMING
IT'S TIME TO MEET UP
& CELEBRATE
FACE TO FACE!**



**SAVE THE DATE
TUESDAY DECEMBER 1ST
6.30PM**

We are still working out the finer details especially with Covid & a long range forecast that says it will be on the cool side. Keep the date & all the details will be available ASAP.

Santa is desperate to know if you have been naughty or nice.....

See you all on the 1st.

Rotary
District 9800



Rotary Opens
Opportunities

www.rce.org.au

Contact

Rotary
Club of Essendon



PO Box 161 Essendon VIC 3040

ABN 91036600532

D9800

8 December – Christmas Raffle Meeting. This will be a casual meeting for all members centred on our upcoming Christmas Raffle. More information to come.

10 December – The Community committee is at it again. We are having a Bingo Night open to all members, families and friends via Zoom.

22 December – Breakfast meeting and raffle draw.

30 January 2021 – Bunnings BBQ slot. We may be on a regular roster from then on. More details to come. Thanks to Peter Condos for following up that opportunity.

17 and 18 April 2021 – a trip to Shepparton Art Museum. Planning is underway.

Future Meetings – GERMS (Get Essendon Rotarians Meeting Safely)

There has been a relaxation of restrictions but when we can meet 'as usual' at the Anglers is still uncertain. The club is monitoring announcements and when possible, we will return to the Anglers. Hybrid meetings are likely. Those unwilling or unable to meet face to face will be able to participate remotely – 'We have the technology'

The Christmas Raffle to beat all Raffles! The Community and International committee have formed a committee to run a 'not your normal raffle'. You will receive your books soon, if not already. Please assist the committee by returning the raffle books and getting the money in by the 8th December. The raffle will be drawn at the Christmas Breakfast 22nd December.

There is a lot happening. With uncertainty about what we can and cannot do some of the planning is up in the air, so watch out for announcements.

Glenn Smith – PHF Sapphire

Honorary Member, Glenn Smith joined us from his home in Queensland to receive a Paul Harris Recognition Sapphire pin to acknowledge his ongoing support of Rotary International. Glenn has received two Awards from clubs, including the RCE, and he has also contributed financially to The Rotary Foundation with his personal donations. Thank you, Glenn, for enabling Rotary worldwide to benefit from your support.

If Rotarians make only one donation every year, why not donate to our very own charity, The Rotary Foundation.

Other News of Interest

Strathmore Men's Shed Re-Opening – from Lisa Lowcock

We have been informed that MVCC have given approval to re-open on Tuesday 24th November 2020. We have to abide by Victorian Government guidelines for COVID-19 Safety. No member is obliged to return however those who do will have all the information they need to return and enjoy the shed and the benefits it provides with the highest possible standards of COVID-19 safety in place.

Contact

PO Box 161 Essendon VIC 3040

Rotary
Club of Essendon

ABN 91036600532



D9800

Essendon members should know how much this Shed means to the men who attend. During lockdown the committee was extremely conscious of the need to keep an eye on some of the more vulnerable members of this group. Through the connection with the Shed and the efforts we made with care packages, phone calls, visits and emails, we identified one man who was in a very dark place and initially we feared for his safety. With appropriate professional information we were able to assist him to get help. He is still with us and hopefully we'll see him at the Shed again soon.

If anyone thinks a Men's Shed is just a place for old fuddy duddies to meet and make stuff, they couldn't be more wrong. The Men's Shed is vital to these men's lives, often when they are at their most vulnerable.

Thanks to Essendon Rotarians, Peter Condos and John Odgers, the reps from RC Essendon Nth and RC Strathmore and our Shed Reps for all the work they do for this wonderful project.

Lisa

Thank you to our supporters!!!



Help yourself and help our Club by banking with Strathmore Community Bank. Take out a loan, term deposit or open a bank account and the club will receive up to \$500. Drop into the branch at 337 Napier Street, Strathmore or call Manager David Porter on 9374-2607 for details

Contact

Rotary
Club of Essendon



PO Box 161 Essendon VIC 3040

ABN 91036600532

D9800

Andrew Mahar, Xpand Foundation

“To put an ‘earned’ dollar in someone’s pocket gives them the power to determine their own future. Xpand Foundation supports communities to move beyond charity and aid by delivering opportunities for communities and individuals to become economically independent”.
Andrew Mahar AM.



Andrew Panjkov introduced our guest speaker for the meeting, Andrew Mahar AM.

Andrew has been described as a “Serial Social Entrepreneur” and having listened to what he has done in Melbourne and Timor Leste over more than 30 years it is no surprise he has attracted that title. An advocate of the policy that “Charity and aid should not be a lifestyle” he has been instrumental in creating a social model whereby the participants are working in co-operation and receive money directly in their pockets.

Having seen first-hand the devastation of communities and environment that deforestation has caused in Timor Leste, Andrew was in the perfect position to make a difference.

Using the [XPand Foundation](#) as the official conduit, a carbon offset enterprise was developed via the European Union funding of €3 million and the involvement as one of 20 participants in the [World Economic Forum One Trillion Trees programme](#)

Andrew has seen a tree planting programme go from a starting group of 12 farmers planting 7000 trees and keeping them alive for a cash return of \$0.50c per year per tree, to now more than 1000 farmers planting, caring for and receiving remuneration of over \$110K p.a. for more than 200,000 trees. In a place where the average wage is \$0.80c per day this type of enterprise is very attractive and provides reforestation in a country which was rapidly in decline due to the reduction of arable farming land through erosion, landslides and soil degradation. The farmers are now part of and benefit from a whole new enterprise.

For more about Andrew and his enterprises go to

<https://au.linkedin.com/in/andrew-mahar-am-7623b028> <https://withoneseed.org.au/andrew-mahar/>
<https://www.infoxchange.org/au>

Rotary
District 9800



Rotary Opens
Opportunities

www.rce.org.au