

# Contact

Rotary  
Club of Essendon



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## THE END OF ROTARY ZOOMING AS WE KNOW IT?

Well, not quite, but we are on our way back to normality. Let's hope we continue to stay safe.

### AROUND THE CLUB

**The Christmas Party** has come and gone and there were a lot of happy faces, happy to be out and meeting in person.

#### RAFFLE CELEBRATION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**The raffle celebration and acknowledgement meeting** was held by Zoom on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Congratulations to the **raffle organisers, Vera, Carmel, Peter C and Sunil**, who were at work scrunching raffle tickets and placing them into a pot. Most reassuring.

**The raffle will be drawn at the CLUB BREAKFAST MEETING Max's Corner (cnr Leake St and Mt Alexander Rd) at 7.30 am on Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February.**

There will be no meeting charge and meals will be ordered on arrival. Be there early to get your breakfast order in. The club meeting will be followed by the **final board meeting for the year**, which is unlikely to start before 8.30.

While there was not a lot of business undertaken at the **raffle meeting**, there were lots of laughs. The meeting clashed with the **Bushfire Relief Function committee meeting** chaired by Alistair Fraser.

Those attending the raffle meeting appreciated the effort to participate remotely but the sight of **Peter Baker's beard** filling our screens did not help our concentration. Luckily, Peter was oblivious to one or two unkind comments.

**Lisa Lowcock** made a relevant comment about the '**Richard Lawrence Postage Stamp**', which I will not repeat but I am sure Lisa will oblige if you ask. I understand the postage stamp is fast becoming a collectors' item.

#### EAST GISPLAND BUSHFIRE RELIEF FUNCTION

**The Function is planned for the 26<sup>th</sup> of February 2021.** Covid-19 may have temporarily distracted us from the plight of the effected bushfire communities, but they are still in need of support. Mark your diaries.

#### THE ZOOM BINGO NIGHT

Not a good time of year and not great interest in another Zoom meeting. A wise decision was made by Kunal and Community Committee to cancel.

#### CROCS

**The Crocs found a home. Donations in Kind** received a 'shipment' of shoes from the **Crocs** company, about 8,000 in all, and they were looking for clubs to help distribute to organisations helping those in need.

Thanks to **Cathy Nicou** and **Lisa Lowcock** numerous cartons are to be delivered to **Caroline Chisholm**. We were unable to find a home for a whole pallet but **David Dippie from DIK** was happy to allow us to take a smaller number. Thanks also to **Michael Portelli** and **Vera Maljevac** for their attempts to find a home for a pallet load of Crocs.

#### 100 YEAR PROJECT

We have not settled on the club's signature project to help commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> year of Rotary in Australia. Let board members know of your thoughts on a suitable project before the meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### CHARTER NIGHT 2021

It seems a long way off, but we will be holding our **86<sup>th</sup> Charter Night Celebration, on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May.** The board will be considering guest speakers, venues and format and we invite your input.



## JEAN ABBEY CELEBRATES HER 98<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

13 DECEMBER 2020

To those new to the club, Jean Abbey is an Honorary Member, a Paul Harris Fellow many times over and the widow of former member and Past President of Rotary International, Royce Abbey AO DCM.

In summary, a popular and key figure in the club's rich history.

CHEW CHEWS opposite Moonee Ponds Station may not be the most salubrious venue but it was close and accessible and was perfect for the small family celebration. The food and service were excellent.

Jean is travelling pretty well!



Jean Abbey with Leigh Abbey, David Abbey and daughters, Robyn Simmie and Susan Schoene

## THE MYSTERY OF THE CHAIN OF OFFICE

A few weeks ago, I mentioned that the Club's Chain of Office is missing a loop with the names of the Presidents before Ian Thomas in 1985/86. That means the names of 50 previous Presidents are missing. Thanks to Past Presidents Alan Murphy and Maurice Mollica, I have been provided with a few theories with the last being that the brass nametags were removed from the ribbon, because of the weight, and stored in a box at Frederick's Restaurant. No one knows if they were removed from Frederick's, and if so, where they ended up. Maybe the storage area at The Anglers?

Presidents won't make a habit of wearing the chain, either singular or double, but it is an important piece of regalia to be featured at important annual events and of course, properly looked after.

If we are unsuccessful in our search, Maurice Mollica has volunteered to contribute to the cost of re-production of the tags and attaching them to a new ribbon and he wondered if other Rotarians may be interested in contributing.

I invite a Rotarian to volunteer to investigate the reproduction and the cost involved if our search is unsuccessful.

## MEMORABILIA

Maurice also lamented that many important items of memorabilia have been lost over the years: the Hourglass presented by the RC of Wembley, banners from overseas clubs and a few others he did not list.

One he did mention was the banner taken by Essendon Rotarians to the Philadelphia Rotary International Convention in 1988. While I don't know where the banner ended up, I can produce the following photograph taken at the 1988 RI Convention, with a few Essendon Rotarians featured. What ever happened to the Crocodile Dundee hats?



## EVENTS TO COME

- 19 January** – our first club meeting for 2021, back at the Anglers, in person. Programme to be advised.
- 26 January** – Australia Day social get together at Boris and Ineke Struk's residence (tbc)
- 2 February** – Club Evening Meeting – No to Violence
- 26 February** – East Gippsland Bushfire Relief Cocktail Function
- 17/18 April** – A weekend away visiting the new Shepparton Art Museum (SAM)
- 21 April** – Re-enactment of the first Rotary Meeting in Australia
- 1/2 May** – D9800 Multi-District Conference
- 1 May** - D9800 Centenary Gala Great Hall, National Gallery Victoria
- 14 May** – Moonee Valley Art Show
- 18 May** – RCE 86<sup>th</sup> Charter Night

## A FEW REMINDERS

**Photographs:** Peter Condos is chasing your head and shoulders photos to make up the club photograph. You never know, we might even be able to take an actual photograph before the year is out!

**Protection Policy:** If you intend to be directly or indirectly involved in Youth activities, we will need your **Working with Children Check** and your completed **Volunteer Forms**, with references.

## SHOULD WE AS ROTARIANS KNOW MORE ABOUT ROTARY?

Roger Leask, Kunil Matreja, Garima Arora, Cindy Abbey and I recently enjoyed an after dinner 'think tank' which involved how to 'spread the word' about Rotary to the community, to Local Government, to potential members and to friends and acquaintances. It was quite a discussion as you might imagine. My conclusion, which may have differed from the other contributors to the discussion, was that unless we know about Rotary ourselves and know where to get Rotary information, we cannot spread the word. So, to assist our knowledge, I invite you click on and browse the following links:

[RC Essendon](#)

[District 9800](#)

[Rotary International](#)

[The Rotary Foundation](#)

[Royce Abbey Award and Scholarship](#)

No, you will not be questioned on the content but you will be amazed at what we do locally and internationally.

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Proud supporter of the RCE Christmas Raffle

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT FAIRHAVEN?



*I took this photograph of an 18 metre whale at Fairhaven Beach around 2pm Tuesday. By the time we rode past early next morning it had been dissected and removed. Luckily, Tuesday afternoon was a very low tide. There was a rumour the remains had then been taken to Anglesea land fill. I hope they had a few tip vouchers.*