

Contact

PO Box 161 Essendon VIC 3040

Rotary
Club of Essendon

ABN 91036600532



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Peter Baker introduced President David who, mindful of the number of locations of attendees at this Zoom meeting gave a respectful general acknowledgement of a number of first nations and the traditional keepers of the land on which our meeting is taking place.

President David then specifically welcomed Irene Stokes and Luke Docking, both of whom are keen on becoming RCE members. Michael Donnelly, President of Keilor East Rotary Club and DG, was welcomed as was Honorary Member Neil Henderson.

President David presented a brief President's report. Firstly he alerted those attending to the fact that Bev Smyth fainted on Tuesday 16 February 2021 while shopping at La Manna's. This has resulted in two hospital visits. Our thoughts are with Bev.

An Art Show Zoom meeting has been scheduled. The Art Show is planned for 14-16 May.

President David reported that a trip to Shepparton is being planned. More details will follow.

A film night and meal at the Sun Cinema in Yarraville is also being organised.

President David also a forthcoming BBQ at the Royal Victorian Motor Club of which Steve Chandler is a member.

President David then handed over to meeting Chair Peter Baker. Peter called on reports from attending Committee Chairs.

Michael Portelli Chair of Youth Services (YS) gave a brief overview of the committee's activities. Firstly YS is looking at Schools' involvement in this year's NYSF awards. RYPEN is for younger teenagers and the Committee is considering its involvement. Finally RCE will be presenting two \$500 awards at the upcoming Kangan Institute Function.

Shirley Kuk as Chair of Community Kuk noted that RCE Board has approved \$2000 for the BT scholarship in the name of Lily. A District Grant of \$2000 was received. Both amounts will support the Nurses after Dark program, the aim of which is to help homeless and disadvantaged children after dark, namely the most dangerous time.



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Peter Condos reported on behalf of Sunil Perera about the International Committee's (IC) activities. Firstly \$1,000 was transferred to Myanmar before the very recent coup. Secondly Peter noted what the IC is probably looking at a project with Days for Girls. Finally Peter reported that the Cleft Lip project is suspended.

Maria Kouppas spoke about the destination of funds from the February 26 'Celebration' at Moonee Valley City Council Chambers being to community projects. Maria noted that there is an amazing array of items for the silent auctions. Bookings for the evening can be made via *tribookings* on our RCE webpage.

Guest speakers – Michael Portelli, Peter Baker, Lino Airo-Farulla

Michael Portelli was then invited by Peter Baker to give an update on the 100 beehives project. Michael started by noting that bees are responsible for fertilising around one third of our food supply. Next point was that the Moonee Valley City Council was one of the first local governments to encourage beehives in the City. The first beehive project came out of the Aberfeldie Men's Shed. The Strathmore Men's Shed want to participate in building 100 beehives to celebrate Rotary International's one hundred years of activity in Australia. There is some discussion about drafting a media release around this theme.

Stakeholders are all cooperating productively. Beekeepers have agreed to offer their services for free. The aim is to have ten beehives completed by the end of March this year. The overarching aim is to create long term project. The Rotary Club of Keilor East is keenly joining the project. Rotary of Keilor East Club President Michael Donnelly noted that there is also possible funding from the Bendigo Bank of either Keilor East or Strathmore. Michael Portelli has also communicated with Moonee Valley City Council which is supportive.

Michael Portelli was thanked for the work he has done in getting the project to this stage.

Peter Baker in a good topic changeover painted a very brief bio picture of eighteenth century German-born astronomer William Herschel. William started out making telescopes. He constructed his first large telescope in 1774. and finished as the Astronomer General.

Lino took over on the note and recounted in quite some detail his very noteworthy from first principles construction of a large telescope. Lino has been interested for many years in astronomy and it is predictable that he would set his formidable engineering mind to this task. It took over four months to construct, which given the precision and complexity of the project is not a surprise.

Lino commented that one of the key disciplines needed for this project was measuring and clarity of vision since very long and precise mirror grinding is needed. Engineering abilities were also in demand as Lino had to build a lot of machinery, including the equatorial mount.



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Lino commented how the completed telescope 'really opened my eyes'. Passion is the most important thing when you build a project like this. If you lack passion, you are not going to succeed. Secondly, you need to acquire knowledge before you start.

Peter Baker thanked Lino for his presentation and President David noted that the skill Lino demonstrated is wonderful. Peter Baker was thanked for this role as meeting Chair, and all members attending were thanked by President David. Meeting closed at 1:58 PM.

Update from Kel Abfalter about Myanmar.

We have received some pictures of the chickens they bought with some of the funds from the Rotary Club of Essendon. They also bought food and supplies for the children and fixed the truck/bus as well.

A huge thanks to Richard for arranging.



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Upcoming event

- **A Fresh Start Cocktail Party**

Moonee Valley City Council Chambers - Pascoe Vale Road entrance, Feb 26, 2021
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

- **Club Evening Meeting - tba**

Mar 02, 2021 6:45 PM – 9:00 PM

- **Club Committee Meetings**

Remote Via Zoom Mar 09, 2021 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

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