

Contact

PO Box 161 Essendon VIC 3040

Rotary
Club of Essendon

ABN 91036600532



D9800

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President: Sunil Perera president@rce.org.au

www.rce.org.au

Change over evening meeting July 6 2021

Peter Baker opened the meeting in his usual manner.

Cathie Nicou offered the customary acknowledgement to traditional land owners, their ancestors and future generations. Cathie additionally remarked on the prevalence of domestic violence among first nation peoples.

Soon to be Past President David abbey welcomed all to the meeting. In particular David acknowledged the many guests and in particular District Governor Dale Hoy and his wife Maureen Hoy, Past AG Colin Styles and his wife June, AG Terry Cay and AG Michael Donnelly and Tony Laycock. Also most welcome were Grace Docking, Pat(ricia) Fraser, Sana Halaseh, John Kouppas, Jane Odgers, Miriam and Sharnel Perera, Struan Robinson , Kerry Roe Sandra Sui wife of Tim Anderson, Jan Thomas and Andrew Vencock (apologies if mis spelt). President David also welcomed potential members.

It is with sadness that President David retold the news that Janet Knee passed away after suffering a stroke. Janet and Don have been stalwarts of the club for many decades. Janet's funeral will be held on July 13 starting 2.30;pm at Overnewton Castle, 51 Overnewton Rd Keilor. Refreshments will be served after the service. Janet requested those attending to wear **colourful clothing**. Condolences will be sent to Don Knee, Jennifer Lawrence and Richard Lawrence on behalf of all members.

Another recent sad event is the passing of Margarite Portelli's mother.

At President David's request, DG Dale Hoy led the toast to Rotary International and the Rotary Club of Essendon. Dale noted that at a basic level Rotary International is here to support and encourage the 36,000 plus Rotary Clubs throughout the world.

On that note President David quickly outlined our Club's history, starting with the fact that Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary and Angus Mitchel, attended a pre charter meeting of the Rotary Club of Essendon. Sixteen years later in 1951 Angus Mitchell attended a RCE meeting with Royce Abbey.

Over its almost 87 years as part of Rotary International, President David observed that RCE has nurtured five daughter clubs, six grand-daughter clubs and five great grand daughter clubs. This is a significant contribution to the world of Rotary and the services it offers.



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Despite the at times severe restrictions that have beset all in the last 12-18 months, our Club has been involved on more than twenty projects, and President David notes we have been successful in our fund raising efforts throughout his presidential year. Three new members has also been accepted and inducted to our club.

The third last task the President David performed in the changeover meeting was to induct our two newest members — Luke Docking and Michelle Trudgen. Luke is a sales consultant in a large construction project and was basically attracted to Rotary for its community work. Michelle has a wide ranging set of expertise and experiences, including teaching and running her own consulting practice. Both were warmly welcomed tour club by all present after the formal induction process ended.



President David’s penultimate act was to present two awards to very deserving recipients. The first was a Paul Harris recognition at the Sapphire level to Maria Kouppas for her consistent and very valuable service our club and the wider Rotary International community. For the first time in most attendee’s memory Maria was at a loss for words: ‘I don’t know what to say’ (!). The second award recipient is equally deserving: (Dr) Peter Baker received a Royce Abbey Award for his outstanding and endless contributions during almost 25 years of Rotary service. Peter’s response was that it’s a fantastic award and that he is most appreciative.



President David then thanked all his board members for their efforts, commitment and support during his presidency. He singled out each board member for praise and appreciation.

- Steve Rowe was acknowledged for his efficient, calm and reliable service as Club Secretary
- Maria Kouppas was thanked by president David for her unending and reliable support.
- Peter Baker’s amazing contributions as Club Services Chair were acknowledged.
- President David noted that incoming President Sunil Perera was always willing to both consult and to seek advice.
- Michael Portelli’s key role is as the Club’s ideas man
- Jenni Mann carried out her role as Club Treasurer with a minimum of fuss
- Boris Struk’s contributions were heavily restricted by a personal tragedy
- Kelly Abfalter contributed in a competent, committed and enthusiastic manner during President David’s year.
- Shirley Kukk is ‘one of the legend of the Rotary Club of Esendon.

Maria and Peter then presented soon to be retired President David with several highly valuable and collectable items.



The very last act of President David’s year was to induct and introduce his presidential successor, Sunil Perera.



President Sunil firstly offered retiring President David for the handing over ceremony, and for guiding the club through a difficult year .

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I would like to thank the nominating committee and the members who encouraged me to accept this role to be the President of this great club I am indeed honoured and humbled.

I would now like to thank my invited guests who are here today Colin Styles & June, Tony Laycock and once again Dale Hoy & Maureen, and of course my wife Miriam and my daughter Sharnel – Thank you.

About 10 years ago after all our kids had moved out, I decided it was time to give back and get involved in community work. I had done some voluntary work before and wanted to get more involved. At that time a new Rotary club was being formed in Greenvale the suburb I live in and I was asked to join. I thought I will do some research on my own about Rotary and the clubs which are close to my work in Keilor Road Niddrie. I came across the Rotary club of Essendon which was one of the oldest clubs, had a past President who was an International President and importantly had a woman President in 2005/06 I thought this must be a progressive club, but the problem was I did not know anybody to sponsor me, so I thought I will call up the President and ask him to sponsor me, after all if you don't ask the answer will always be "NO" - Grant Sheldon I am standing here today because you took that call

So a special thank you, to you Grant and thank you for your advice in those early years.

I would now like to introduce my new Board and share with you in brief the reasons I selected each one of them.

Vice President – Lisa Lowcock – I have known Lisa for many years since I joined Rotary, she was a Past President and was recently awarded Citizen of the year by the MVCC for her work in the community Lisa has a great work ethic and is passionate about the work she does in the community, Lisa encouraged me to be the club's bulletin editor when she was President *just for a few months* she said 5 years later I was still doing it every week! But I learnt a lot about Rotary being the Editor. **So thank you Lisa & Thank you for joining the Board.**

Secretary – Any good Board must have an outstanding Secretary to function well, I am very happy that Past President Stephen Roe has accepted this role again, Stephen is a person I have got to know well over the years (helps when we are in the same suburb) his attention to detail and knowledge of Rotary are things I admire – **Thank you Steve for joining the Board**



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Club Service – Past President Peter Baker and his late wife Leigh were among the first people my wife & I got to know when I joined Rotary, Peter has an in-depth knowledge of Rotary matters and has great organising skills and a compassionate nature, he has been a sounding board for me and will continue to be – Thank you Peter.

International – Past President Peter Condos and I have worked together for quite a few years now and I have got to know Peter as a friend and a person I respect, he is a quiet achiever and I can always depend on him to give me a balanced view on matters, as he has done - **so thank you Peter for joining the Board**

Community – Vera Maljevac is a new member, having worked with Vera in the Christmas raffle project I observed she is a great team player and takes on responsibility and I enjoyed working with her, Vera is also President Elect for year 2022/23– Thank you Vera for joining the Board

RAA, Foundation & Wellness – Past President Maria Kouppas I believe cannot be replaced by anyone, she has the ability to take on any role and do it brilliantly. Any social event will not function well without Maria's help and great sense of humour – thank you Maria for always helping me

Treasurer – Jenni Mann has been the treasurer for over two years and has done the job very well I had to ask her to accept the role again, I have known Jenni as a fellow CPA for many years, she understands the role and I find it very easy to communicate with Jenni – Thank you Jenni

Vocational- Michael Portelli a man with great ideas and passion as well as dedication, I certainly enjoyed my small role working with him in the Bees project, even though he is another quiet achiever he has a great sense of humour. He has selected a great team to work with him. – Thank you Michael & good luck

Youth – Andrew Panjkov is also a new member, even though he is a person of quiet disposition one can see the depth of knowledge he has and the strength of his character, so I believe he will be great for our club in the years ahead – Thank you Andrew I look forward to working with you

Bulletin – Even though not on the Board I would like to thank John Odgers for accepting the role of Contact Editor.

I would like to finish by saying we are all a work in progress, hopefully improving, and our best work will always be tomorrow.

So as I take on this role of President of our club I might at times stumble or trip up, but I am confident that if I do all of you will give me a helping hand - THANK YOU.



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Strathmore Men's Shed at Bunnings Coburg

The Strathmore Men's Shed will be at Coburg Bunnings for their BBQ sausage selling on Saturday Jul 10th 2021. Please support our Shed by planning your Bunnings trip on that day and go down, say hi to our Sheddies and have a sausage with the onion on the top. Or is that on the bottom?

Caroline Chisholm clothes appeal

The Caroline Chisholm Society is supporting young women and children who find themselves in very difficult situations. At the moment they desperately need donations of winter clothes and coats/jackets for boys and girls 3-5 yrs of age. They take new and used items. If donating used clothing please ensure the items are in good condition. They also need size 5 nappies for walking toddlers. If you hate the idea of kids going cold this winter please do something about it and help out Caroline Chisholm Society. You can be assured that the donations will go to those most in need.

Upcoming events

- **Curry Night**

Magic Mint, July 20, 2021, 6:30 PM – 10:00 PM

- **Presidents Night**

Windy Hill, July 27, 2021, 6:30 PM – 11:00 PM

- **Meet Stephanie Spence, Athletics**

Angler's Tavern, August 03, 2021, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

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