

Contact

PO Box 161 Essendon VIC 3040

Rotary
Club of Essendon

ABN 91036600532



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President: Sunil Perera president@rce.org.au

www.rce.org.au

Evening meeting August 3 2021

Peter Baker led a topical toast to all our Olympians.

Lisa Lowcock opened the meeting and introduced President Sunil.

President Sunil welcomed the guests joined us for this meeting. Stephanie Spence, our guest speaker and her husband David Spence were joined by Vincent Mollica and Diana Mollica, Stephanie's parents. To add to the Mollica family was Norm a very long standing member of our club. Sandra Sui, Tim Anderson's wife, Andrew Lowcock, Lisa's husband, Greg Strokes, Irene's husband, Pat Fraser, Alistair's wife, Cindy Abbey, Past President David's wife, John Kouppas, Maria's husband, and Christine Hilbert all graced us with their presence and were welcomed to the meeting.

President Sunil thanked the members who had registered to attend the curry night that had to be postponed due to the restrictions put in place and stated that the curry night will be re-scheduled for another day soon.

President Sunil also thanked the members who had volunteered to visit Hosier Lane which also was postponed to the 26th October; further information will be sent to the member closer to the date.

President Sunil also made mention the fact that the Bees Project 100 hives for the 100 years of Rotary was going very well and will be completed ahead of schedule within this calendar year. He thanked and congratulated Michael Portelli for the great work he has done to achieve this target on his project, he also thanked Andrew Panjkov for his assistance. A fuller report from Michael Portelli is set down later in his Contact.

President Sunil stated that he had read an article that the Rotary membership has been stagnant for the past 20 years and requested that each member try to encourage at least one new suitable member to join our club.

President Sunil further stated that the club membership is not only about numbers, more importantly all participants including existing and potential members must feel valued, respected and welcomed, it is only then that we can grow and achieve our goals.



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Immediate Past President David thanked Kelly Abfalter for her sterling work in his year of Presidency. Kelly was presented with a gift by Past President David. David also mentioned a performance this Sunday at Tempo Rubato by a world class pianist and invited people to join it.

Vera Maljevic outlined the Western Emergency Relief Network (WERN). WERN is a not for profit charity that helps a wide range of people including youth, victims of disaster, veterans and /or their families, people with chronic illness, females, and families. All recipients have to be referred by a reputable organisation. WERN will take electrical goods, furnishings, crockery, furnishings, and will pick up goods.

Nola Spicer then introduced a new project with St Vincent de Paul Society. Community Committee members will contact RCE members by telephone and ask us to look around for donatable goods that can be used by St Vinnies. The goods can be collected or brought to our Rotary meeting. The plan is to hold a market stall at Lincoln Park.



Peter Baker entertained with a few full-of-potential jokes before handing over to Lisa to present the evening's guest speaker.

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Lisa Lowcock Stephanie Spence. Lisa knows Stephanie very well since they are first cousins.

Stephanie has had enormous experience in athletics, both as a competitor and more recently as a senior official and administrator. Stephanie was the first female President of the Victorian Athletic League. She stepped down from that position in 2021 to spend more time with her family. Stephanie is still the Chair of the Stawell Gift Company.



Stephanie won the Stawell 800m as much through mental toughness as ability and pain staking preparation.

The State government has launched a 'change our game' initiative to try to increase female participation in athletics and field sports. Included in this initiative are such measures as equalizing prize money, and providing women only change rooms.

Another potential initiative could be for the sports administrators to change the competition schedules to the children and young teenagers so that parents/ carers have to spend less time at athletics meets to only see their children in one or two races over several hours.

Stephanie also noted several local athletes who are competing in the 2020 Olympics. Lyndon Hall and Patrick Tiernan are two that come to mind.

Stephanie noted that we need to attract the younger generation to the sport.



Stephanie is surrounded by President Sunil and Past President Lisa Lowcock at the end of her most interesting and inspiring talk.

She was presented with a very large gold medal for her outstanding effort on the night and we are sure it will take pride of place in her trophy cabinet that has many other medals and awards from her 15 plus years of competition in both amateur and professional events.

Beehive project update from Michael Portelli

The Bee happy committee is pleased to report that our Centenary project to build 100 boxes is now ahead of schedule, with Rotary Club Essendon and East Keilor Rotary club expected to have all boxes completed before the end of 2021.

The project has brought many groups together and has led to the establishment of the Moonee Valley Beekeeping club. Please encourage family and friends, who may be interested, to join as new members.

The Moonee Valley Council has been gently encouraging our initiative. This has opened doors in our relationship with the Maribyrnong Bowls Club, which has given us a home for our beekeeping club and an amazing facility that our RCE can use for fundraising.

The Strathmore Men's Shed has been extraordinary in its support for the centenary beehive project and we are indebted to their continued commitment. Special thanks to Steve Holman and Rod McLeod and our own John Odgers.

Alistair Fraser's bushfire relief fundraiser has allowed us to prepare 60 beehive boxes to be donated to the Gippsland Traralgon region in the coming months. We will coordinate this delivery with The Traralgon Central Rotary club, who are very excited and grateful to participate in this joint project. A weekend away to Traralgon is being planned in the Spring to celebrate the transfer of the Beehives.

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Upcoming events

- **An Evening of Classical Piano**
Tempo Rubato
August 08, 2021, 8:00 PM – 9:30 PM
- **DG official visit**
Anglers tavern
Sep 07, 2021, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
- **'Renewables, Batteries and the Future'**
Angler's Tavern
Sep 21, 2021, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

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