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## Evening Zoom meeting September 21 2021

Peter Baker introduced President Sunil to the screen.

### President's message

Thank you all for attending the zoom meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> September, we had a great audience of 28 or more including visitors to listen to Lara Panjkov's presentation on Renewables, Large batteries, domestic batteries and the future of alternate forms of energy and how solar power and wind energy will replace existing coal fired energy sources in the future.

This was a very interesting presentation and elicited a number of questions which Lara answered to the best of her ability very well. She also provided some interesting statistics on the savings that an electric vehicle can generate as compared to petrol vehicles.

We should all be encourage to know that the youth of today are taking such a keen interest in the future of our planet.



In this time of lock down it was good to hear from Maria Kouppas & Michael Cariss some light hearted humour that made us all laugh.

Thank you to Peter Baker for his interesting synopsis on how the earth rotates and the impact the moon has on the earth's rotation and the seasonal lag.

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Rotary  
Club of Essendon



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We must get Peter and other members to talk more at meetings, as storytelling and sharing knowledge and life experiences with others is a great way to encourage members to participate, understand and get to know each other better.

I have spoken with the Club Service Director Peter Baker to arrange for a selected member at each meeting to give a short few minutes talk on any subject of their choice. Remember this is a Fellowship year.

Congratulations to Cathy Nicou for completing the application at very short notice to the MVCC/MVGC to support the Windy Hill Aphasia Group to obtain a speech Pathologist as the MVCC required an incorporated body to support the group in order for the Council to provide funding.

Until we meet again via zoom stay safe and keep healthy.

### I leave you with this message



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## Guest speaker Laura Panjkov



Lara spoke informatively and interestingly on Australia's moves to clean air transmission, and on a number of related topics as President Sunil has identified..

After completing her engineering/ science degree, Lara worked at Tesla for a couple of years. She then moved to Bloomberg as a renewables analysts. Currently Lara is employed at Fluence that resulted of the merger of Siemens and an AES company that specialises in battery technology. Lara's role is in Strategy and market development.

Lara's expertise and experience certainly shone through during her presentation.

The first point offered is that the electricity industry in itself is the largest source of energy emissions, representing 35% of the total. The transport industry is the second largest contributor at 19% of emissions. Household and industrial heating represents 18%.

Lara then presented a graphic that shows that Australia's main electricity grid is the longest and skinniest in the world. This presents some supply and reliability problems.

Next we were presented with data and discussion on how quickly Australia's renewable energy sector has grown over the last ending 2020. Indeed Lara noted that it is forecast hat by the year 2050, over sixty per cent of all energy requirements will be supplied by renewables. As a corollary, 60% of all east coal supplies are expected to retire by 2040. However this strong growth in renewables is causing faster that average wear and tear on coal based energy.

On the other hand, building renewable power plants is much cheaper that building non renewable energy sources.



Lara notes that to offset inherently variable of intermittent renewable energy sources, we need to ensure that there are balancing resources in place. The use of battery storage technology is one such balancing resource strategy. We also need to manage power stability and reliability to ensure that there is enough renewably generated electricity to meet peak demand.

Australia is one of the countries in the world with the most solar energy roof tops. This is due o the facts that solar panels are relatively cheap, with a range of government incentives to purchase and install. Energy bills can also reduce appreciably with informed usage. This popularity is however putting pressure on the conventional electricity grid which needs constant usage to optimise production cost.

Lara notes that a Virtual power planting (VPP) is one way to reduce this grid pressure. Wikipedia explains that a virtual power plant (VPP) is a cloud-based distributed power plant that aggregates the capacities of heterogeneous distributed energy resources (DER) for the purposes of enhancing power generation, as well as trading or selling power on the electricity market. In other words, individual houses or non domestic energy users can combine their energy usage and rebates to achieve better economic results.

Lara's talk created a lot of interest and several questions all of which she answered as fully and honestly as she could. As a postscript, Lara is our member Andrew Panjkov's daughter.

## Upcoming events

- **Tony De Fazio presents**

Anglers tavern

Oct 05, 2021 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

- **club meeting**

Oct 19, 2021

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

- **Dr Anne Woolley, the Dog Whisperer**

Angler's Tavern

Nov 09, 2021

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM



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- **District 9800 Conference**

April 30- 1 May 2022: more information to follow

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