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President: Sunil Perera president@rce.org.au

www.rce.org.au

Evening Zoom meeting October 5 2021

Maria Kouppas introduced President Sunil to the screen.

President's message

A big thank you to all who attended our club zoom meeting on the 5th October, we had great attendance numbers including the speaker's family members as well as members who have been on holiday now back in Melbourne. PP Veronica O' & Jenni Mann welcome back, also it was great to see PP Boris Struk.

Maria Kouppas gave her 3 minute talk with an update on how our club has conducted events in the past some which are unique to our club.

The "Person behind the badge" speaker was Tony De Fazio, he gave a very interesting talk about his background, education and employment progression aided by power point slides. He explained his life's journey and the various projects he has been involved in during his full-time working career as well as his current part-time work in Local Government.



As this year is dedicated to fellowship in our club, I encourage members to share their life journey in order to foster better understanding of each other and build friendships, the corner stone of any club working to achieve the common goal of helping the community.

On other matters I am happy to announce that the Bee Keeping Club initiated by Michael Portelli has now been incorporated and Michael is its first President.



Rotary Opens Opportunities

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Rotary
Club of Essendon



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The Bee Keeping Club is attracting 3 members every week, he was happy to announce, as this is the season for collecting swarms to fill the hives Michael himself is working as a busy bee!

A big thank you to Shirley Kukk for helping the International committee complete a District International Grant to supply farm equipment to Bahay Tuluyan in the Phillipines.

Thank you also to Lisa Lowcock for initiating and drafting a letter to the MVCC regarding the Nursery Corner Reserve Master Plan (next to the Strathmore Men's Shed) highlighting some omissions.

I leave you with this thought



Guest speaker: Tony de Fazio

President Sunil introduced Tony, noting that he has been a Rotary Member for some time, and took on the role of President of the Rotary Club of Box Hill.

Tony started his presentation with some personal and familial facts. Tony was born on June 21, 1955. Tony has two sister siblings. His family emigrated from Italy (Sicily and Calabria) with his parents Mario and Nancy in search of a brighter, more rewarding life for themselves and the family.

The de Fazio family has a strong set of values. These are work hard and prosper; customer service; love of friends and family; community service and contribute to those less fortunate; spiritual devotion; integrity and principles; and promotion of culture and heritage.



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Tony spent a lot of time gaining educational qualifications, including a Bachelor of Business at RMIT from 1975-1980. A decade later Tony completed a Graduate Diploma in Management. Tony also gained admission to the Australian Company Directors.

Tony spent his working life predominantly in local government, Between 1977 and 1994 Tony was employed at the cities of Essendon (now Moonee Valley after mergers with parts of nearby cities), Preston and Port Melbourne. Looking for a change Tony spent some of 1994 at KPMG Consulting.

However, the lure of local government proved too strong and Tony worked for the city of Hobsons Bay from 1994-2004. Tony's final local government city role was with the City of Whittlesea from 2005- 2020. Tony is still contributing through his role in the Local Government Inspectorate. A body that seeks to ensure the integrity of local governments.

Tony has had his share of bumps along the way. One of them occurred when he was offered a CEO position, only to be outmanoeuvred by a disgruntled employee who lobbied very hard and managed to wrest the position from Tony. Tony was also unsuccessful in his bid to stand for Council in 2016.

Tony has contributed a lot to community service over his adult life. One example is his work as a member of the Neurone Disease Association: coincidentally Tony's father died of Neurone Disease. Tony has had to endure the loss of his grandmother, his wife's father, and brother in law.

Tony is very proud of his family , including his 4 adult children and 9 grand children. He also places a high emphasis on physical activity, including competing in marathons. Tony has travelled internationally, both professionally and privately, with Thailand, Vietnam, China, Italy and Greece all being visited.

Tony fielded some interesting questions at the end of his presentation.

Maria Kouppas commented on the wonderful news in the Abbey family with the arrival of Hazel Joanne, a new grandchild.

The meeting finished at 8 PM.



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DIK update

The COVID 19 lock down has had a significant negative impact on the operations of Donations In Kind (DIK).

The AGM for DIK Inc followed by a general meeting of DIK Inc is scheduled for Wednesday October 13th at 5.30pm. The most important aspect of the AGM is the appointment of officer bearers for the year. Given the restrictions the meeting will be a Zoom one.

A report of these meetings will be provided in the next issue of Contact.

Upcoming events

- **Victor Perton on Optimism**
ZOOM
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
- **District 9800 Conference**
April 30- 1 May 2022: more information to follow

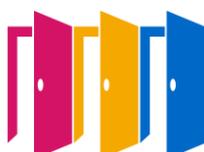
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