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Date November 18 2021 - Volume: 87 Issue 9

President: Sunil Perera president@rce.org.au

www.rce.org.au

Annual General Meeting November 16 2021

President's message

After the AGM was completed the club got down to the main event of the day, to honour member Norman Mollica for 50 years of community service as a member of our Club, The Rotary Club of Essendon.

Norm Mollica joined the Rotary Club of Essendon on the 16th November 1971 together with his brother Maurice, it was the first time two brothers had been inducted on the same day.

Over the years the brothers raised funds from a number of projects they initiated and collected record sums of money for the club. Special mention must be made of the \$1,100 contributed towards the \$3,220 required to donate an Insulated cot to the Essendon Hospital which was a first outside of the major city hospitals and only one of six in Victoria at the time. This was a life saver for babies in the area.

For his distinguished service Norm was awarded the Paul Harris Sapphire by the District Governor Dale Hoy who was present on the day.

Norm also received congratulatory wishes from the Prime Minister of Australia, Premier of Victoria and other dignitaries who sent letters of congratulations including the former Leader of the Labour Party Bill Shorten which were read out by Norm's daughter Lisa Lowcock.

Norm's daughter Lisa Lowcock joined the Rotary Club of Essendon in 2005 the first father daughter members of the club.

Lisa went on to be the President of the Rotary Club of Essendon in the year 2014-15.

Norm Mollica in his thank you speech mentioned that he enjoyed the fellowship throughout his years of membership and very generously stated he will be donating \$10,000 to the Rotary Club of Essendon to



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ABN 91036600532

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be used for projects to improve mental health, an illness suffered by 1 in 5 Australians (20% or 4.8 million) as at June 2018.

Congratulations also to Cathy Nicou for obtaining the MVCC grant for our project titled "Everyday Conversations – 16 days of Activism" no to violence training program, relating to Family Violence, this project awarded the amount of \$5,597.

As part of 16 Days of Activism, presents the opportunity to participate in 'Everyday Conversations' training, which will delivered by No to Violence.

This is a great chance for everyone to learn about the gendered drivers of men's violence against women and practical skills for bystander actions.

It will be held at Wingate Community Centre on Wednesday 1st December from 9.30am - 12.30pm, with lunch provided afterward. Tickets are at no-cost. As they are limited, please let us know if you need to cancel.

If you would like to register please contact

Cathy Nicou M: 0425 728 782

Email: nicat1@bigpond.com

A limited number of places are reserved for Rotary.

Thought for the day



Rotary Opens Opportunities

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Peter Baker introduced President Sunil who read out an acknowledgement statement that included all lost soldiers in addition to the original owners of the land on which this meeting is being held.

President Sunil then welcomed guests for this very special meeting including District Governor Dale Hoy, Vic Abfalter, Sam Arena, Sue Condos, Regina Davern, Pat Fraser, Cristine Hilbert, John Kouppas, Andrew Lowcock, Svetlana Mahoney, Miriam Perera, Struan Roberts, Greg Stokes and Joanne Westover

President Sunil then opened the 2020-2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) meeting .

The 2020 AGM report was confirmed.

Past President David Abbey tabled a detailed report of his year that was read out by President Sunil.

Jenni Mann presented the Treasurer's Report for 2020-2021 and confirmed that past member Glenn Smith has agreed to continue as auditor for the year 2021-2022.

President Sunil outlined the Club's activities and achievements for the current mid-year .

President elect Vera Maljevac announced the Club's Board members for 2022-2023.

President Sunil then declared the AGM closed.

Lisa Lowcock outlined the Caroline Chisholm Society Christmas to appeal. Delivery of all donated new toys can be organised directly with CCS as per the attached flyer. If you do wish to participate and donate some toys, please get in touch with us on 03 9361 7000 to arrange a drop off time **for any donations prior to 2 December**. When choosing items 75% of our Children are under the age of 3 and 25% are between the ages of 3-6. If this arrangement presents a problem Lisa may be able to sort something out.

Maria Kouppas informed the meeting that Past President David Abbey and Cindy have been affected by water damage around their house and are busy trying to organise repairs etc. Past member Peter Duras has suffered a range of injuries as a result of an accident with a car. Fortunately Peter is now recovering at home, and is progressing as well as can be expected.

President Sunil then led our Club's and District's tribute to Norm Mollica who has just achieved a momentous milestone by reaching fifty years of Rotary service. President Sunil as guided in his tribute by the words penned by Norm's daughter, Lisa. She has kindly made them available to Contact so that factual errors are avoided. Some minor editing has been done.



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Norm was born with the name Onofrio Carlo Vittorio Mollica on 04/11/1935. His dad was Bartolomeo and his mum were Serafina and he was their first born. Norm sadly had to change his name when he arrived in Australia as those of British decent found it difficult to pronounce his name.

Over the following years Vince, Maurice and Kathy were born. Norm was a great student in Italy and excelled in his classes. He was good in the sciences and won student awards. He was sent to Australia on a long boat journey with only a slightly older family friend to supervise him in 1949 on the ship name the Ugolino Vivaldi.

He was to live with his uncle Frank Mollica at 6 Puckle St, Moonee Ponds. The family lived above the family fruit shop and Norm was put straight to work having to go to the fruit and vegie market every morning before sunrise with his uncle. He then worked in the shop.

No time for schooling which Norm greatly missed. Bearing the brunt of the racism of the time Norm found that he needed to have his wits about him and learn to speak Australian. He put himself through night school to do so. He also learned to box to protect himself.

Luckily, he was a natural sportsman and could run fast. He enjoyed sport so much he joined the local Essendon Athletics Club and was a very successful amateur middle-distance runner.

Norm also greatly enjoyed basketball, both playing and coaching a number of premiership teams. So respected was he in the local Italian and basketball communities that he hosted the Italian Basketball team in the 1970s when they were in Melbourne.

In later years when injuries forced a retirement from basketball golf became his sport and it has taken him around the world and provided much enjoyment.

Norm married Gwen on 19/11/1960 and had two daughters, Lisa and Gabrielle. They lived originally in Pascoe Vale, then Glenroy and finally Strathmore. Norm has five grandchildren and two great grandsons. He is a very involved grandfather. Without a doubt his family is the most important thing in Norm's life.

With his brother and father in 1966 he started the very successful Moonee Ponds Tyre Service at 660 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds. They all certainly worked hard to make it the success it became.

They sold the business a few years ago and retired but the business is still running. The big tyre painted in red and black is a famous local icon and is likely to be the most viewed tribute to the Bombers ever as millions of people over the last 55 years would have seen it as they passed in their cars and on the tram.



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Norm receiving Paul Harris
Sapphire from DG Dale Hoy



Father and daughter – dynamic duo!

I know of people who have grown up waiting to spot it as they passed, and now do the same with their grandchildren on trips to and from the city.

Norm joined Rotary on 16/11/1971 on the same day as his brother Maurice. It was the first time two brothers had been inducted on the same day. Bill Early was President. Coincidentally Norm was born in 1935 the same year as the Rotary Club of Essendon was chartered. His R.I.# 306891. He joined with the classification of Tyre Retailing.

In 1973-74 Norm and Morrie ran the first of many Clay Target Shooting Days at the Victorian Gun Club. They also ran the Melbourne Cup Sweep netting a profit of \$1100.00 which would still be a great achievement today.

Due to both events the club was able to fund a large proportion of the \$3220.00 required to donate an Insulcot to the Essendon Hospital. It was the first at a hospital outside of the major city hospitals and one of only six in Victoria. This was a lifesaver for babies in the area.



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During 1974 to the 1980s the annual gun shoots raised much needed funds every year for the club and became a regular and reliable source of income. It usually raised between \$1500 and \$2000 each year and it was enthusiastically attended by many members and friends.

During the 70's and 80's the Norm and Morrie also ran many Cup Sweeps over the Spring Carnival. These also raised thousands of dollars and became to be a regular expectation of Cup week every year. When we think about what the average wage was during that time we realise what a big impact these fundraisers had on the ability to fund really important club projects.

In 1979-80 the annual gun shoot raised \$1500 for international service projects including crippled children in Fiji, Asian refugees at Midway Hostel Maribyrnong, International House in Carlton and the Red Cross Kampuchean Appeal. That same year Norm became a Life Member of F.A.I.M. which translates to "Fourth Avenue In Motion", the fourth avenue of Service of Rotary being International Service. In later years Rotary Australia World Community Service Limited, we now call it RAWCS, replaced F.A.I.M.

In 1980-81 a vocational visit to Olympic Tyres arranged as Dad had connections via his business. 1983-84 another successful gun club day raising nearly \$4000 which I think was a record. Norm and Gwen hosted a number of exchange students over the years, taking them to their homes in Glenroy and then Strathmore and of course down to the holiday home in Sorrento where learning to fish was a main priority. Many kept in touch for a number of years such was their enjoyment of the Mollica hospitality.

Having arranged student exchange in the club myself I know the importance of having good families to sponsor the young people and I know from feedback from the students that were hosted by them that the time they spent with Norm and Gwen were amongst the best they had in Australia.

Norm loves playing golf and has represented the Rotary Club of Essendon in many Rotary Fellowship of Golf tournaments around Australia and indeed the world the most memorable being at the in Pinehurst Golf Club in Nth Carolina where the U.S. Open has been played. He bought home wonderful memories and trophies as well. He also arranged many golf days in our club which were always fun and profitable.

Representing our club overseas was a marvellous experience for Norm. His naturally gregarious nature, his ability to chat and put people at ease and his polite and gentle behaviour made him a wonderful representative of both our club and our nation. Any Rotarian from another country who had never met an Australian before would go away with a very positive impression of who we are. Certainly not like Crocodile Dundee or Steve Irwin!



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Many Rotarians over the years enjoyed trips to Sorrento to Norm and Gwen's holiday house and enjoyed their hospitality at both organised club functions there and private trips. No matter when you went you would go home with a tummy filled with fresh fish and a belly aching from the fun and laughter of the day. Their generosity is renowned.

In 2014-15 daughter Lisa joined the Rotary Club of Essendon the first father daughter members of the club. Whenever there has been a raffle ticket to sell – or buy - or a fundraiser to attend Norm has been there to support it.

Norm has attended almost every Charter Night, Presidents Night and President induction in the 50 years he has been a member. He has supported 50 Presidents and been on all committees in the club and has always been ready with a smile, a joke, a laugh, a handshake and a word of encouragement.

You could always rely on Norm to be there when needed. He has always thought of new ways to bring in members and raise funds and while not always in the limelight is responsible for many of the successful fundraisers and projects in the club. Norm has been a quiet achiever. He is always thinking of ways to make our club great. While he left the microphone and photo opportunities to his brother Morrie, his work behind the scenes is always full of enthusiasm and effort. Thank you and Congratulations on your 50 years of service to the local and international community Norm.

Forthcoming events

- **Membership day**
Angler's Tavern
Nov 30, 2021
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM
- **Vocational visit** (to winery)
December 2 2021 to Barokes for wine tasting starting at 3 pm. For details contact Irene Stokes or Michael Portelli.
- **Christmas Party**
Dec 07, 2021
6:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- **Breakfast meeting**
Dec 21, 2021
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM



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Strathmore Community Bank® Branch



Thank you to !!!

Help yourself and help our Club by banking with Strathmore Community Bank. Take out a loan, term deposit or open a bank account and the club will receive up to \$500. Drop into the branch at 337 Napier Street, Strathmore or call Manager David Porter on 9374-2607 for details

Request from Rotary Club of North Essendon

Presidents

The Rotary Club of Essendon North conducts a fundraiser on Oaks Day each year to raise funds for Cancer Research. Over recent years the club's donation has contributed to melanoma detection.

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 lockdowns we have been unable to hold the event on the day for the past 2 years. However, we have decided to have a Breakout Post Oaks Day Luncheon this year on 25th November 2021.

From Midday – 4.00pm HYATT EVENT CENTRE, Larkin Street, Essendon Fields.

2 Course Meal \$80 p.h.-Includes champers, wine, & soft drink. Plus Devonshire Tea, Free Parking .

On the Day: Sweeps, Lucky Tab Tickets, Raffles, Prizes, Lucky Door prizes.

Awards for: Lady of the Day – Best Hat, Best Shoes, Best Head Piece.

Nb: ** Full COVID vaccination certificates must be produced before admission

Bookings-Go to Trybooking:<https://www.trybooking.com/BVEJR>

or Contact: Barry Coleman 0427 852 062

Thanks

Paul



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Request from Carolyn Chisholm Society

November 2020

We hope this finds you well. We really do! We get it, COVID-19 and all the associated stressors have impacted everyone. It continues to do so.

So, we are doing what we do best—being there for people when times get tough.

Caroline Chisholm Society has been supporting vulnerable mums and new families for over 50 years. Throughout the last 12 months, we have witnessed an increase in those requesting emergency assistance, higher levels of complexity in care and more new mums with no access to government support due to their visa status.

This is a shout out as we are organising our annual Christmas Toy Drive for families again this year. We have run a Christmas Toy Drive for many years, where the community donate new toys for us to distribute to families in need. We know that many of you are doing it tough yourselves and giving this year may look a little different to other years.

If you do wish to participate and donate some toys, please get in touch with us on 03 9361 7000 to arrange a drop off time **for any donations prior to 2 December**. When choosing items 75% of our Children are under the age of 3 and 25% are between the ages of 3-6.

Between 7-8 December we will be running a Santa Shop from our Caroline Springs site for our families to choose a few items for their children. We hope it will help all our families doing it tough this year and bring some joy.

Acknowledging that shopping can be challenging this year we also welcome the donation of funds via our website by going to <https://www.caroline.org.au/make-a-difference/donate-now/> and we will do the shopping on your behalf.

Attached is a flyer for you to circulate or print and display if possible.

We would like to pass on a big 'thank you' for being part of our community and helping us to continue to do the work we do.

Yours sincerely,

The Team at Caroline Chisholm Society



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Thank you from Scope

11/10/21

Rotary Club Essendon

Dear Vera,

Scope is a not-for-profit organisation that exists to support people to achieve their potential. We support people with profound and complex physical and intellectual disabilities throughout Victoria and NSW.



Scope (Vic) Ltd
ABN 63 004 280 871

St Albans Lifestyle Options
432 Main Road West
St Albans Vic 3021

Phone 03 9366 7433
www.scopeaust.org.au

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank The Rotary Club Essendon and Ego Pharmaceuticals Pty. Ltd Melbourne for the kind donation of Hand Sanitiser which will help to keep everyone here at Scope St Albans Day Service safe. It is very much appreciated.

Thank you and wishing you all health and happiness.

Yours truly,

Linda Mazziol

Program Coordinator

Scope St Albans Lifestyle Options



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NO TO VIOLENCE EVERYDAY CONVERSATIONS TRAINING

As part of 16 Days of Activism, we're excited to present the opportunity to participate in 'Everyday Conversations' training, which will be delivered by No to Violence.

This is a great chance for you to learn about the gendered drivers of men's violence against women and practical skills for bystander actions.

It will be held at Wingate Community Centre on Wednesday 1st December from 9.30am - 12.30pm, with lunch provided afterward. Tickets are at no-cost. As they are limited, please let us know if you need to cancel.

Spots are limited.

If you would like to register please contact

Cathy Nicou M: 0425 728 782

Email: nicat1@bigpond.com

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