



Maria Kouppas  
President 2016-17

**Volume 82, Issue 41**

May 16th 2017

President Maria was invited to the podium by sergeant Michael Cariss

### **President Maria's message**

Welcome fellow Rotarians and friends.

This is the first opportunity since Charter night to again congratulate our newest Paul Harris Awardees. As you would be aware from Contact last week the last few weeks have been very difficult and sad for some of our members and their families. Added to this is also the passing away of Kerrie Roe's mother last Saturday. Once details come through re the funeral arrangements our Wellness Coordinator will let us know. A card has been sent and flowers sent to Kerrie, Steve and their family.

We also have a card circulating for Michael Mahoney who is once more going through chemo treatment (spoke to him last week) feeling less than ordinary but doing his best despite the nausea that this treatment brings with it.

Our Contact editor whilst Sunil is on leave is Tamara Hycenko, who steps in and gets the job done with the minimum of fuss. This week will be Tamara's last Contact, and also Tamara has decided that she will not renew her membership coming into the next Rotary year. Her increased commitments to Seeing Eye Dogs, and the desire to spend more time in that domain have bought her to the point of making this decision. I want to publically acknowledge the wonderful friendship and commitment we have had the pleasure to share with Tamara over the last few years. We wish her well and she is always welcome to visit the club. Tamara would like to go onto the Friends of Rotary Group and will be well informed of what's going on.

Bahay Tuylian Dinner this Friday – promises to be a wonderful night all in a good cause. Please contact Cathy for further details, as I am sure it is never too late to reply if you can attend.

Tonight the Art Show committee reconvenes since the very successful Art Show held earlier this year, and planning for the next Art show will commence in earnest. This is a partnership project with RCEK that we should be so proud of and the potential is only limited by our commitment and support.

RDNS update: a team of five representatives of our club, Richard Lawrence, Jack Honson, Alistair Fraser, Alan Murphy and Maurice Mollica. At this stage the council seems very interested there is scope of part sharing in the building which struck a very positive note with those present. The RCE representatives had some very helpful suggestions. There are a couple of possibilities with the building but we will know more when the council will let us know. Congratulate this keen working party who have been very busy these past six months in dealing with the Bureaucrats and there is still a lot to be done. A lot depends on what treasury will ultimately decide upon. Your efforts are greatly appreciated – issue that has come to many past Boards and at least we think we may be speaking to the right people.

Rotary Present with Susan Alberti. We unfortunately have not had the uptake we needed to make the night a successful night with no negative expense to the club. Due to the low numbers in consultation with my Board, Boris Struk, Grant Stephenson and Glenn Smith we have decided to postpone our Rotary Presents function. Thank you to all who have replied and offered their opinion and it certainly was appreciated. The Marketing team certainly worked hard to bring something special to our

## Rotary Club of Essendon

## Contact



Rotary calendar, but in hindsight the timing was not the most suitable. I thank them for their efforts and also to Glenn Smith who has been helping from afar. All monies will be refunded fully, I just ask for a little patience, as our treasurer is off overseas (not with the bookings money) and we will action this on her return.

A community service reminder of the SAVE BUCKLEY STREET public rally on the 21st May at 11.00 am, meet at the corner of Rose and Buckley St Essendon and wear red in support of the Rail under road solution.

Our sincere condolences to Kerrie and Steve Roe on the passing away of Kerrie's mother. Our thoughts are with the family.

Thank you to the Rotarians who generously donated blankets, sheets and household goods for the Western Emergency Relief centre

Visitors: Ross Butterworth, WERN. Uddhav Shiwakoti from Rotary Club Kathmandu, Nepal, and Nina.

Next week's Speaker: Bill Kusneciuk – Planning, Building Development and VCAT.

### Quote of the Day

It's the niceties that make the difference, fate gives us the hand, and we play the cards. *Arthur Schopenhauer*

**Shirley Kukk** introduces our guest speaker Ross Butterworth:

Ross Butterworth joined Rotary in 1994 and served as President in 2004-2005, he was invited to accept the role as Assistant Governor Westside in 2006-2008, District Chair of Community Service 2008-2010, D9800 Chair of International Service 2010-2011 and District Governor 2013-2014.

Ross retired from the hospitality industry in 2007 and has since become involved in the commencement of Western Emergency Relief Network or WERN and is here today to talk on the new District 9800 Endorsed program.

## Ross Butterworth

WERN is a non-profit organization changing lives every day for those marginalized in our society or suffering trauma through emergency circumstances. We help trauma victims recovering from such devastating events as fire and flood. WERN also assists in situations such as family violence, refugees and the homeless. WERN is made up of people and organizations who care and want to make a difference. WERN is managed and run by volunteers and is totally reliant on the support of groups and individuals with both financial and practical donations. We source funds via organizations and local governments who support our operations and our status as a non-profit group. Through WERN, Partner Agencies like DIK can access: Furniture, linen, electrical and white goods, bedding, kitchen wares and appliances free of charge. We try to cover all basic living needs required in each circumstance.

Please spread the WERN word to your family and friends. If you know of anyone having a garage sale, moving house, getting new furniture, down- sizing, please tell them about us and we will gladly pick up their preloved goods.

By the end of this financial year WERN is anticipating helping around 600 families since commencement.

- \$212,000.00 worth of goods have been donated
- Almost 5,400 items provided to families in need
- Over 3,800 volunteer hours provided
- Over 330 collections completed
- 41 Welfare Agency Partners
- 226 Accredited Caseworkers

Member Rotary Club of WERN: Bacchus Marsh, Caroline Springs, Essendon North, Hoppers Crossing, Melton Valley, Werribee, Wyndham, and Yarraville.

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**Jenny Foster:**

I will be leaving for Stockholm on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May to see my daughter, who is currently living there, dance at the Royal Swedish Ballet Company. I will an apology for not being present at President Maria Kouppas' final meeting and I wish her well. I also will be an apology for not being able to attend Presidents Night because I will be in Brisbane. This is our club, not mine, so please always let me know your ideas and thoughts. I may not always be able to accommodate them but may sometimes we can.

I would like to ask you all to let me know of any ideas for the next Rotary year.

The Club Forum will be held Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July to formulate our Vision for the future, so put the date in your diaries. I need to hear from everyone.

**URGENT**

Please advise Michael Cariss of any changes that need to be made for  
The Club Directory  
by Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June.





More Photos from Charter Night





## THE PASSING OF HAROLD A.SEELEY – HONORARY MEMBER

It was with some sadness that Club Members learnt that onetime honorary member of the Club Harold Seeley died on 7 May 2017, aged 87.

Harold was introduced to the Club by PP Anne Rogers in the early 2000's, and became an active and enthusiastic supporter of the Club projects in the Union of Myanmar. At that time the Club was struggling to find funds for its project at Yangon Children's Hospital, but with Harold's contributions of well over \$100,000 over the years, the Club became one of the major benefactor of that hospital, along with the Government of Japan. Harold took this Club's international profile to levels only dreamt of before.

Harold and his wife Annie then went on to establish their own projects in Yangon, the main ones being the purchase of two houses in Dalat township to establish two kindergartens. These kindergartens continue to operate today, and are regularly visited by Club members.

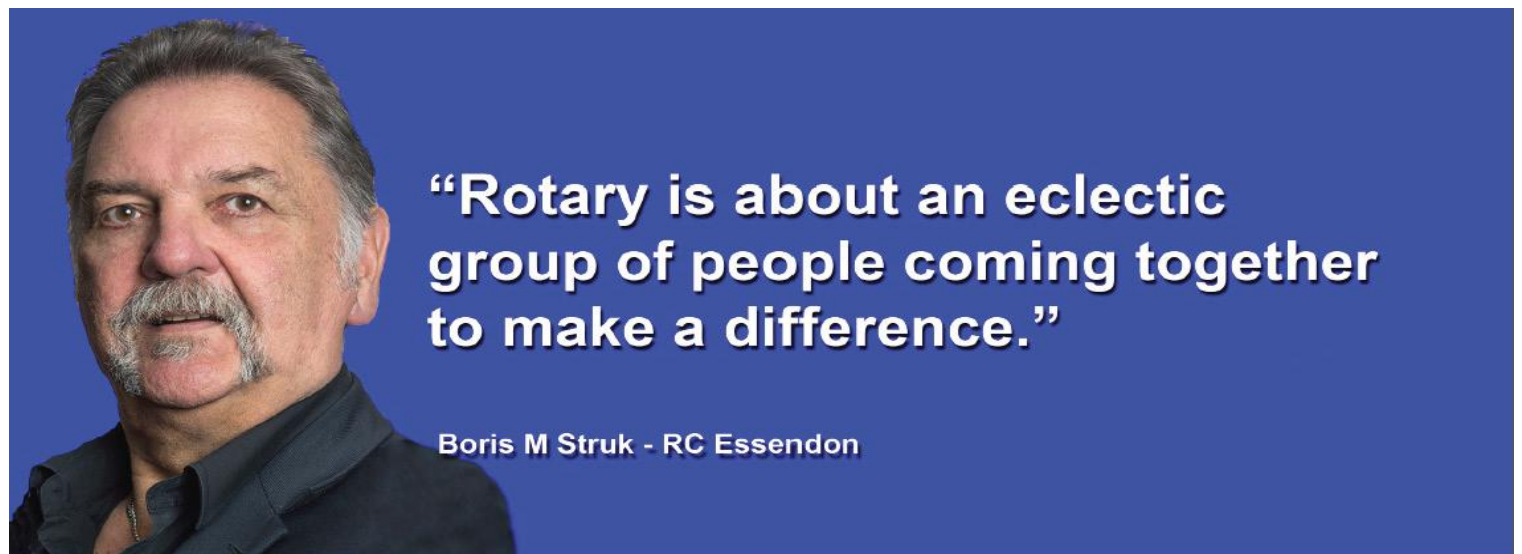
Harold joined the Club's delegation visits to Myanmar with Annie for many years, and also brought many family members along with him, who were thrilled to join our visits. They learnt much.

In Harold's private life he owned the company that manufactured the Chef gas cooker, which was the stove of choice in the kitchens of most Australian homes in the 1950's and 1960's. When that business was sold, Harold applied the sale funds towards his many charitable interests around the world. His generosity was legendary.

Club Members saw Harold at every fundraiser that the Club held, usually bringing friends with him to promote our various causes. He did so much to assist the Club raise its own funds.

The Club has never been treated to such generosity from such a wonderful Christian person, and his passing was a time of much sadness for many members. President Maria sent flowers and a card on behalf of the Club, and Anne Ramsay attended the funeral at Kew Baptist Church last Thursday, 11 May 2017. R.I.P. to great man.

Timothy Anderson.







# WANTED

Have you taken any photos on your iphone, or camera in this past Rotary Year?

Can I please have them forwarded to:  
M.Kouppas@hotmail.com

Many of these photos will form a special memento of this past year, and I would like to use them as part of the year in summary.

I appreciate your help with this. Remember any Rotary function or event....

Thanking you in anticipation

**Maria**

## Other Matters:

Jack Honson did a makeup visit to the Rotary Club of Manningham

Shirley Kukk won the draw but failed in drawing the joker.

**Thought for the day:** *Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine*

Rotary Club of Essendon

Contact



## EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	SPEAKER/EVENT	VENUE
May 2017	Graffiti clean-up day	Date, time & venue TBC
23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2017	Bill Kuszniczuk – Town Planning	The Anglers Tavern 12.30 pm for 1pm to 2pm
31 <sup>st</sup> May 2017	Rotary Presents – Susan Alberti AO	Australian Events Company Essendon Fields Start time 7pm
6 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	DG Visit & Fellowship	The Anglers Tavern 12.30 pm for 1pm to 2pm
13 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	Nina Lovengreen	The Anglers Tavern 12.30 pm for 1pm to 2pm
20 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	President Maria's final meeting	The Anglers Tavern 12.30 pm for 1pm to 2pm
30 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	President's night	St Andrews Conservatory

Rotary Club of Essendon

Contact



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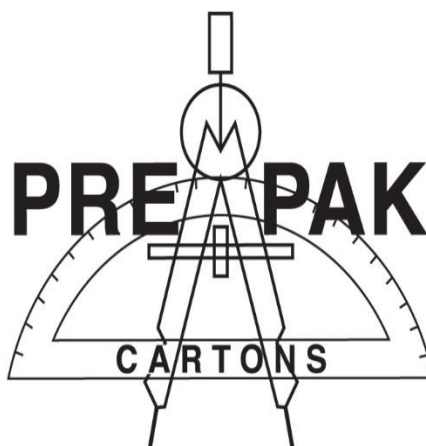
## Strathmore Community Bank® Branch



# Bendigo Bank

Help yourself and help the Club by banking with Strathmore Community Bank. For example, take out a home loan and the club will receive up to \$500. Take out a 3 month fixed term deposit and the club will receive up to \$50.

For more details drop into the branch at 337 Napier St or call branch Manager Philip Stewart on 9374-2607.



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