Rotary
Club of Flemington Kensington Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

The Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington Inc.

ABN 47 754 561 417

P.O. Box 64,
Flemington 3031

rotaryflemington.org.au/

facebook.com/rotaryflemington

instagram.com/rotaryflemingtonkensington/

Club 24401
Chartered 24 March 1987
District 9800

Rotary
Flemington Kensington

UNITE FOR GOOD

The mission of Rotary International is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

2024-2025 Office Bearers

Board

President	Melina Caccetta 1/7/2025 – 17/4/2026 Lesley McCarthy 18/4 – 30/6/2026
Secretary	Lesley McCarthy
Treasurer	Peter Cribb
President Elect	Abdiwahid Hassan
Governance	Cody Bettanin

Directors

Club Service	Jo Walker
Community Service	Chris Richardson
Environment & Sustainability	Lesley McCarthy
International Service	Peter Cribb/Shraddha Sharma/Abdi Hassan
Youth Service	Jeff Weitzel
Foundation Chair	Shraddha Sharma

Office Bearers

Bulletin	Lesley McCarthy
Investment Committee	Cody Bettanin/ Lesley McCarthy/Peter Cribb
Membership	Board
Onto Conference	Board
Opportunity Shop	Deborah Ryan/Frances Stratford/Lesley McCarthy
Program	Board
Protection Officer	Beate McManus
Public Relations/Marketing/Web	Drew Sheehan
RIMERN	Lesley McCarthy
Donations in Kind Inc	Peter Cribb/Lesley McCarthy

District 9800 Representatives

Lesley McCarthy	Facilitator, District Leadership & Development Team Vice Chair, Donations in Kind Board RIMERN Committee member ESRAG Oceania executive & bulletin editor
Chris Richardson	District Youth Committee, NYSF





Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo
Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy

District 9800 Governor Peter Shepheard
Rotary Club of Altona City





Rotary Community Group Leader David Dippie
Rotary Club of Keilor East



President's Report 2025-2026:

In this Rotary year with the theme of Unite for Good, it was fitting that we accomplished so much by partnering with others.

Key Achievements:

1. **Local engagement and impact:**

- **Op Shop:** Despite the continuing economic challenges, the Op Shop remained a pillar of our community, contributing over **5,000 volunteer hours** and raising over $20,000.
  The Op Shop also hosted work experience students.

- **RYDA:** Supported by a grant from Moonee Valley Council, we offered the RYDA program to 4 schools: Buckley Park College, Essendon Keilor College, Mount Alexander College and Rosehill Secondary College. The program ran throughout the year with Rosehill delayed until November 2026.

- **Scholarships and sponsorships**: We also continued our focus on youth with scholarships for local schools, including MAC, Ascot Vale Special School, Ascot Vale West PS, Kensington PS and Debney Meadows.

- **Christmas Toy donations**: in partnership with Donations in Kind we collected thousands of dollars of Lego, toys, books and games which were then donated to Bendigo Bank Christmas Appeal, Wingate Avenue, the Venny, Djerring Hub playgroup and children's programs, Ascot Vale Special School and Hotham Mission.

- **1000 Stories Initiative:** Over 2,000 books were distributed to Djerring Hub, Wingate Avenue and The Venny through community donations, promoting literacy and supporting education.

2**. Moonee Valley Council partnership:**

Partnering with Djerring Hub, our club has been involved in sausage sizzles to celebrate events, and supported requests for books, fabric and drink bottles for their events.
We again ran the BBQs at Youth Fest, Carols by Candlelight and Moonee Valley Festival.

3. Environmental Sustainability Initiatives:

National Tree Day: In partnership with Moonee Valley Council and Keilor East Rotary, our team helped to plant over 6,000 trees and shrubs at Boeing Reserve in Strathmore, reinforcing our commitment to environmental sustainability.

The Op Shop continues as a Re-Use, Recycle, Repurposing hub: we collect and redistribute items to RagMan, RIMERN, Youth Projects, Savers, Caroline Chisholm Society, Mobile Muster and Red Nose/Savers.

4. International Service & Humanitarian Impact:

- **Puntland, Somalia:** After years of planning, a container of hospital beds, dialysis machines, and educational equipment was sent to Jarriban Hospital, demonstrating the perseverance of members like Abdi Hassan, Ilhan Mohamud and Mohammed Abbas. *This was co funded by the Somali community and with a Rotary District Foundation grant.*

- **Nepal Education Project:** In partnership with the Rotary Club of Tripureswor and supported by the Balwyn Centenary Grant, we continued the Back-to-School project, helping students in Siraha and Udayapur districts access education and sanitation.

- **Sri Lanka:** We assisted the BEAP Foundation, collecting funds to support Rotary Club of Columbo's Flood Appeal. We facilitate funds collection in Australia through our RCFK Foundation.
- We also shipped another container of medical equipment to support the Stroke units. *The Rotary Club of Essendon contributed $2000 towards shipping.*

- **Rotary Youth Exchange**:
  Our club supported Jay Tatulaschwili on exchange to Denmark for the 2025 year.
  We hosted Lenka Pocarovska from Czechia from July 2025 to June 2026. Lenka attended MAC.

- **Rotary Global Grant Scholars:**
  Jasmine Emolla and Haruka Tanaka were supported by our club for masters degree studies.

  Jasmine is studying at Oxford University.
  Haruka has just completed her studies at the University of Melbourne.

  Rotary Club of Albert Park with district global scholars.
  Jasmine 3rd from left; Haruka, 3rd from right.



Victorian Council of the Ageing Seniors Awards

In October, several members attended a presentation ceremony at Government House. Lesley McCarthy was honoured with a for her outstanding commitment to Rotary and education.







Secretary's Report - Lesley McCarthy

The role of the Club Secretary is to ensure that the administrative requirements of the Board; District and Rotary International are attended to. This involves processing incoming and outgoing correspondence; submission of reports; updating membership databases and the submission of annual returns.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 5th November 2025.

The Annual Statement to Consumer Affairs Victoria was submitted in November.

The club has the following registrations:

Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation

61094
This allows the club to hold minor gaming activities such as raffles, fundraising events and other events such as bingo, lucky envelopes etc to the amount of $5000. Raffles over this level still require authorisation.

Consumer Affairs Fundraising

FR-000015337.
This allows the club to conduct formal fundraising events including fundraising for other charities eg End Polio, Australian Rotary Health Lift the Lid.

ASIC
Australian Securities & Investments Commission

RC Flemington Kensington Foundation Pty Ltd is a registered Australian Proprietary Company
ACN 632 136 406

REGISTERED CHARITY
acnc.gov.au/charityregister

RC Flemington Kensington Foundation is a registered charity.
ABN 75 591 148 794
Deductable Gift Recipient endorsement was approved on 24 October 2019.

Members:
During the 2025-2025 year, we welcomed 3 new members. They were inducted at the District Governor's visit in December 2025.



Ilhan Mohamud {Soraya} is a member of the Puntland community and worked with Abdi to fundraise for the container to Puntland.

Shirhan Abdulkadir is Ilhan's daughter. She is a student at VU.



Jean Turnbull is a Project Manager who heard about RORP and joined to be part of that project.

Members 2025-2026

Mohammed Abbas Omar	3 years	Karolina Sevcikova	7 years
Anwar Alishek {H}	12 years	Shraddha Sharma	24 years {including Rotaract}
Cody Bettanin	9 years	John Sklenar	32 years
Allan Bruno {H}	36 years	Drew Sheehan	3 years
Melina Caccetta	6 years	Hayden Smith	1 ½ years plus Youth Exchange
Geoff Cawsey {L}	**39 years**	Frances Stratford	June 2025
Peter Cribb	21 years	Jo Walker	transferred from Williamstown 2023
Alexandra De Bortoli	3 years	Jeff Weitzel	3 years
Nina Farmer	3 years		
Abdi Hassan	3 years		
Josie Magri	34 years {including Rotaract}		
Nicole Marshall	7 years		
Lesley McCarthy	30 years		
Beate McManus	32 years including several years at Maribyrnong Highpoint		
Christine Richardson	1 ½ years transferred from Essendon North		
Deborah Ryan	2 years		
Len Seddon {L}	37 years		

Corporate Member: Mount Alexander College 7 years

Treasurer's Report : Peter Cribb

The Rotary Club of Flemington is no longer registered for GST as our club income is below the threshold. All figures quoted in the report are net of GST.

The financial statements are to be read with the explanations. Several project areas received or spent monies in previous financial years or will acquit in the following year, so a clean breakdown is not always possible.

NOTE #1: Due to financial year discrepancies, some grants and payments are received or made in a year other than that which they were applied for or used.

NOTE #2: The treasurer role was completed by Peter Cribb assisted by Lesley McCarthy. Additional signatories were Shraddha Sharma, Melina Caccetta and Cody Bettanin.

NOTE #3: The Op Shop is managed as a fundraising operation by the Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington Foundation Inc, a charity registered with ACNC. All profits are donated to other charities, individuals or organisations whose mission is in line with Rotary's Areas of Focus and appropriate according to the ACNC regulations. The Foundation also has DGR status meaning we are able to issue tax receipts for donations.

NOTE #4: The Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington Foundation Inc holds an investment portfolio with Inovayt, established in 2019 with funds raised during 2013-2015 from Metro Rail events. The company associated with this account has 3 directors: Cody Bettanin, Lesley McCarthy and Peter Cribb. Shraddha Sharma is a signatory.

The club is in a strong financial position despite the reduction of income from BBQs, and the Op Shop.

ACCOUNT BALANCES AS AT 30 JUNE 2026:

Account name	Account number	Balance	Explanation
Club	151 262 821	9,267	
Op Shop	151 262 698	10,332	
Projects - RORP	168 394 070	10,115	
Investment account	151 446 309	49,418	We are holding $20,000 for Nepal
RCFK Foundation	169 141 215	11.653	
Investment portfolio – Innovayt CFS	0910 36679 7429	142,445	

The Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington Foundation

ABN 75 591 148 794

The Foundation was established in 2019 to manage funds raised through the 2 Op Shops. The charitable status allows the club to manage and distribute funds more effectively and allows income to be GST exempt.

The Foundation also allows us to accept donations which can be tax deductable through our DGR status.

During the 2025-2026 financial year, the Foundation made payments to:

Donations	
Rotary Foundation	2,700 {$100 per full member}
Donations in Kind	5,000
RIMERN	1,000
Global Grant scholar Jazmine Emolla	1,500
ARH PhD Scholar Catherine Johnston	6,000
RYE Lenka	3,334
Scholarships	4,800
RYLA	950
RYDA	8,088
RORP	3,746
NICU Bed	350
Sri Lanka – Stroke container	9,006
Nepal	2,000
EAHA	3,000
Food & Friends	1,525
ASIC	818
Multi club container Cambodia	1,000
Multi club indigenous shop project9	500
	$59,709

The ATO Not for Profit tax returns have been completed through the portal.

Regulations changed in 2024 requiring all NFPs to lodge income tax returns.

Op Shop report:

This financial year has been disappointing from a trading point of view. While we have still had many customers, sales have been less as is the situation with all traders in Flemington.

We have retained our valued volunteers who have amassed a huge 3,800 volunteer hours during the year. Vinh Ly, Rui Keng, Nahla Khidhir, Barbara Ryan, Glenice Thomas, Gael Moran. Rotarians Deborah Ryan, Frances Stratford, Shraddha Sharma, Jo Walker, Chris Richardson and Lesley McCarthy all did shifts regularly.

Liam and Juliet Marshall Pearson volunteer on a Saturday – they are both working towards Duke of Edinburgh awards.

Volunteers were recognised with lunches during National Volunteer Week and at Christmas. They were also presented with Volunteer acknowledgement certificates and a Christmas cake.

We continue to recycle through the RAGMan: income this financial year was $520.

Excess clothing and shoes are donated to Youth Projects for their homeless program. This is collected by Peter Duras from Rotary Central Melbourne fortnightly.
Excess clothing and household goods are donated to Red Nose Day/Savers and is collected fortnightly.
Excess kitchen, household goods and Manchester are donated to RIMERN for inclusion in their family care packs.

The shop is run by Rotarians, regular Centrelink volunteers, and volunteers.

Income		**Expenditure**	
Sales	55,373	Rent - Tousoulis	24,000
RagMan	924		
		Bank fees	942.38
		Utilities	1,505.53
		Rates	4,652
		Insurance	4,438
		Shop expenses	230
		Volunteer expenses	777
	56,297		**36,544**

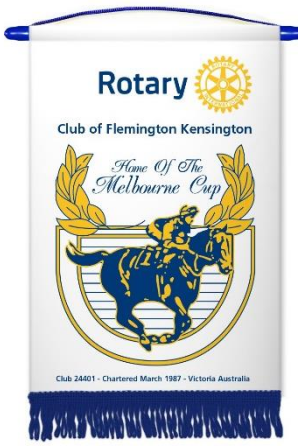
THE FIRST OBJECT OF ROTARY

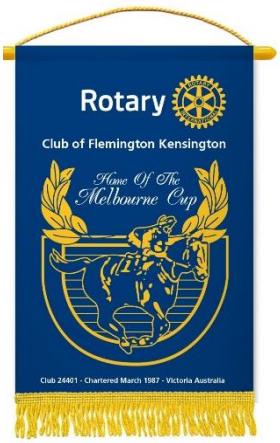
The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service.

Club Service

Meetings were held fortnightly alternating between breakfast and dinner on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Most face-to-face meetings were held at Mama Bear Café or the Doutta Galla Hotel. Special events were held at Riverside Golf Club.

New Club Exchange banners were ordered to allow for distribution by Jay, Lenka and members travelling overseas.





Bulletins were provided monthly using ClubRunner.

Website

The club website based on ClubRunner contains a vast amount of information on our club events and activities, club bulletins and stories.

ClubRunner synchronises between District 9800 and Rotary International making member updates simple.

Program:

The speakers program served to enrich members knowledge and enable further relationships with local community groups.

District Governors visit:

District Governor Peter Shepheard and his father Neil attended our December meeting at Riverside Golf Club.



Photos
https://rotaryflemington.org.au/PhotoAlbums/2025-dg-visit-17-december

Peter had the delightful task of inducting 3 new members: Ilhan Mohamud, Shirhan Abdulkadir and Jean Turnbull.

He also presented PP Lesley with the club's Foundation donation certificate for our significant contribution over the year.





And no December get together is complete with the man in red himself!



We were delighted to welcome some of our youth alumni with MAC teacher Ching Chan.





The **Annual Club Presidents Changeover** was held at the Riverside Golf Club in Ascot Vale.

Past District Governor Julie Mason represented the district.

Special guests were:
Mr Sathanantha Kirupanantha and Mr Dave Paramandan from the BEAP Foundation
Charlotte Iannarella and Faiqa Sawiz {Del King scholar} from MAC
Anthony McManus
Carla and Jay Tatulaschwili
Ava McKirdy – NYSF candidate
Sarah Allman – former Del King scholar
Maria and Josh Pocarovska

Visiting Rotarians were:
David Dippie, Community Group Leader, Keilor East
Maria Silber, Rotary Footscray
RYE student Lenka Pocarovska.

Lachlan Janetzki acted as MC. Nicole Marshall gave an Acknowledgement of Country.

Lachlan Janetzki was inducted as a new member.

The Jim Hosie award was presented to John Farmery for his hands on service at BBQs and with RORP.

PowerPoint Presentation
https://rotaryflemington.org.au/PhotoAlbums/2026-changeover









Lachlan, Jeff, Jo and Ava



Lenka and her mother Maria and brother Josef



Maria Silber Rotary Footscray; RYE chair Scandinavia. Jay Tatulaschwili, Lenka Pocarovska, PDG Julie Mason



Anthony McManus and Len Seddon



Community Group Leader David Dippie, Rotary Keilor East with Len Seddon, Dulcie Heard and Geoff Cawsey

Lenka with former member Yvonne Farquharson now Rotary Beenleigh.



John and Denise Farmery with Chris Richardson



THE SECOND OBJECT OF ROTARY:

High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society.



Vocational Service is the cornerstone of Rotary and was the key to the beginning of the Rotary ethos of service above self. Rotary's founder Paul Harris recognised that people could use their vocations to help others in the community.

Our members use their vocational skills and occupational experience serving the club and in various service projects.

These include:

Governance and Protection roles.
Secretarial, project management and budgeting.
Managing Op Shop volunteers and their documentation from CentreLink.
Mentoring work experience students and casual volunteers in the Op Shop.
Participating in the RORP project creating plans and documents.
Public image and marketing.

THE THIRD OBJECT OF ROTARY

The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life.

1. Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network – providing household goods to disadvantaged families and those who have experienced loss through trauma, fire, flood, domestic violence. Members volunteer on the 4th Thursday of each month. Lesley is on the Board.

2. Donations in Kind – Peter and Lesley volunteer weekly.
Lesley serves as our club representative on the DiK Board.

3. Rotary Overseas Relocated Playgrounds – Peter Cribb, John Sklenar, John Farmery, Shraddha Sharma, Lesley McCarthy

4. Carols by Candlelight – this was such a very busy day, we ran out of food and drinks by 4pm. Thanks to Anwar and his 2 mates, John Sklenar, John Farmery, Peter and Bev, Nicole and Juliet, Karolina, Deborah and Lenka.

5. International Womens Day –Melina, Nicole and Juliet, Deborah, Beate, Chris and Frances, joined the students from MAC. *https://rotaryflemington.org.au/Stories/international-women-s-day-1*

5. Moonee Valley Festival – we joined with EAHA to run this sausage sizzle and support the festival**.** John Sklenar, Peter Cribb, Karolina Sevcikova, Nicole Marshall, Lesley McCarthy, Anwar.
https://rotaryflemington.org.au/Stories/moonee-valley-festival-3

6. National Tree Day – Lesley, Shraddha, John Farmery, Chris Richardson, Lachlan Janetzki joined with MVCC and Keilor East Rotary to plant trees and shrubs at Boening Reserve Strathmore.
https://rotaryflemington.org.au/Stories/international-women-s-day-1S

7. Somali Day Festival – this was a fundraising opportunity for the Galkayo Puntland container. It was a great day with Soraya and Abdi.
On the BBQ we had Anwar, John Sklenar, Johnhttps://rotaryflemington.org.au/Stories/international-women-s-day-1 Farmery, Tony McManus, Abdi Hassan, Shirhan Abdulkadir, Charlotte Pearson and Lesley McCarthy.
https://rotaryflemington.org.au/photoalbums/2026-somali-festival/

9. 1,000 Stories – over the year, almost 2000 books were donated to Djerring Hub, Wingate Avenue and The Venny. These books were sourced from the Op Shop, DiK and donations.

10. Op Shop - the shop continues to be the face of Rotary in the community and provides a social and connection opportunity for many people. Volunteers are dedicated and continue to be a great support. Melina continues to strengthen our relationship with community groups.
The shop has approval from Services Australia to accept Centrelink volunteers.
Our Authority Number is: **690917**

11. It's in the Bag – members contributed handbags, toiletries and sanitary items for this year's Share the Dignity/It's in the Bag drive through Danny Pearson's office. 25 handbags filled with goods were donated by our members.

YOUTH

The club's focus on youth programs continued strongly.
Unfortunately, we were unable to identify a student for RYPEN or NYSF.

Lachlan Janetzki a former MAC student attended RYLA.



MAC:

Melina attended the MAC awards night and presented awards.
The Del King Scholarship was awarded to Faiqa Sawiz. Her older sister received this award in 2018.



The Ted Frank vocational award was presented to TJ Truong.





Ascot Vale Heights SS did not have a year 12 student in 2025. They asked if we could instead sponsor their sensory garden. The Board approved a donation of $1000.

Scholarships were presented to students at Ascot Vale West PS, Kensington PS and Flemington PS.

RYDA:
A grant of $8,000 was received from Moonee Valley Council which covered bus costs for 4 schools.
6 Rotarians were on duty each day the program ran.

Students from Buckley Park College, Essendon Keilor College and Mount Alexander College attended the program. Rosehill college will attend on 4/11/26.

Date	Rotarians	School	Students/	Teachers
9/9/25	Lesley, John F, Drew, Hayden, Jess, Fran, Karolina	Buckley Park College	86	6
24/11/25	Shraddha, Jo, Chris, Fran, Lachie, Jennifer from RC Essendon	Essendon Keilor College	105	8
17/2/26	Shraddha, Peter, Jo, Lachie, Sally from RC Keilor East & Jennifer from RC Essendon	Mount Alexander College	72	6
		Total Students impacted:	**263**	



THE FOURTH OBJECT OF ROTARY

The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

Global Grant scholar #1



Our club in partnership with 7 other clubs in District 9800 is supporting **Jazmine Elmolla**, a Port Melbourne resident and lawyer working in migrant law to pursue a Master of Science in International Human Rights Law at Oxford University. This is a 2-year part-time course.

Global Grant scholar #2:

In July 2023 we welcomed **Haruka Tanaka** from Nigata Japan to study for a master's degree in Developmental Studies at the University of Melbourne.



Haruka was a reglar attendee at club meetings and events and at the Op Shop. She was hosted on a number of trips and events by Peter & Bev Cribb, Drew & Barbara Sheehan, Melina & Alex, Shraddha Sharma, Lesley, Karolina and Jo.



Haruka graduated on 17 August 2025. Lesley attended the graduation and met Haruka's mother who had flown in for the occasion.

Rotary Youth Exchange:
Together with the Rotary Club of Footscray, we hosted Lenka Pocarovska from Czechia. Lenka arrived in July 2025.
Her first home family was with Carla and Scott Tatulaschwili {Jay's parents}. She was also hosted by Drew & Barbara Sheehan, Hayden & Jessica Smith, Chris Richardson and Jo Walker.



Rotary Footscray also organised placements.



Jay Tatulaschwili spent 2025 in Denmark.
He returned in January 2026 and presented to the club in February.



Jay is now studying Year 12 at St Bernards College.



ROTARY IN THE NEWS

We continued to have good cover in Flem Ken News published quarterly This is a good opportunity to share stories and have some coverage of our Op Shop, activities and areas of focus. We also submit stories to the District Networker and to Rotary Down Under magazine.

External publications:
Mount Alexander College News:
Peace Poles June 2025 published August
International Women's Day
Christmas networking with Lachlan Janetzki, Sarah Allman, Simeon Baker and Lenka Pocarovska

Rotary Down Under Magazine:
National Tree Day
Jarriban container project
Stroke container Sri Lanka

FlemKen News:
We place an advertisement in each edition.
National Tree Day
Welcome Melina – Spring 2025
Welcome Jeff and Peter Spring 2026

Moonee Valley Council News:
National Tree Day
Moonee Valley Festival

Networker:
National Tree Day
Jarriban container project
RYDA

Rotary International Magazine:
Jarriban container project



The **club website** is updated regularly: http://www.rotaryflemington.org
Facebook is also updated regularly: https://www.facebook.com/rotaryflemington/

The Op Shop features posters, banners and brochures showcasing our projects.



At **fundraising BBQs,** our club banners and brochures are featured.
We use the tagline – "**Every Sausage Tells a Story"** at BBQs showing what we are fundraising for at each event.



The car which we donated to Moonee Valley Council for the L2P program is an advertising banner for our club on its daily drives.