

2024-2025 President's Changeover

25 June 2025





Rotary

Rotary's Vision Statement

TOGETHER WE SEE A WORLD
WHERE **PEOPLE** UNITE AND TAKE ACTION
TO **CREATE** LASTING
CHANGE ACROSS THE GLOBE
IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND IN OURSELVES



IN THE 2024-2025 ROTARY
YEAR, ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT STEPHANIE
URCHICK INVITED US TO:

*“CELEBRATE THE
MAGIC OF ROTARY”*



2024-2025 LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick
 - Zone 8 Director, PDG Ghim Bok “G.B.” Chew, Singapore
 - District Governor Michael Lapina, Wyndham
 - Community Group Leader David Dippie, Keilor East
-
- President Lesley McCarthy
 - Secretary Joanna Walker
 - Treasurer Peter Cribb
 - Board members Abdi Hassan, Shraddha Sharma, Drew Sheehan, Jeff Weitzel, Cody Bettanin



MEETINGS

We continued to hold our meetings fortnightly: Breakfast at Mama Bear on the 1st Wednesday and dinner at Hardimans on the 3rd Wednesday – with some variation.

We enjoyed guest speakers, met our youth candidates, experienced fellowship and club forums with decisions made by the group.

Guest speakers

Members

Youth

Fellowship

Learning

Project planning

NEW MEMBERS:

We were delighted to welcome 3 new members this Rotary year:

Debra Ryan, a long term Op Shop volunteer was inducted by District Governor Michael Lapina during his visit to our club in September.

Hayden Smith, a former Youth Exchange student from District 9640 was inducted by President Lesley McCarthy in November.

We welcomed Chris Richardson as a transfer from the Rotary Club of Essendon North.



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S VISIT

- We were delighted to welcome District Governor Michael Lapina and District Governor Elect Peter Shephard to our club on 25 September 2024.
- Michael presented PP Shraddha with the Presidential Citation.
- He also assisted with the induction of new member Debra Ryan.



2023-24 ROTARY CITATION



Awarded to the Rotary Club of

Flemington Kensington

for helping **Rotary create hope in the world.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R. Gordon R. McNally".

R. Gordon R. McNally
President, Rotary International

OP SHOP



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



ENVIRONMENT



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION

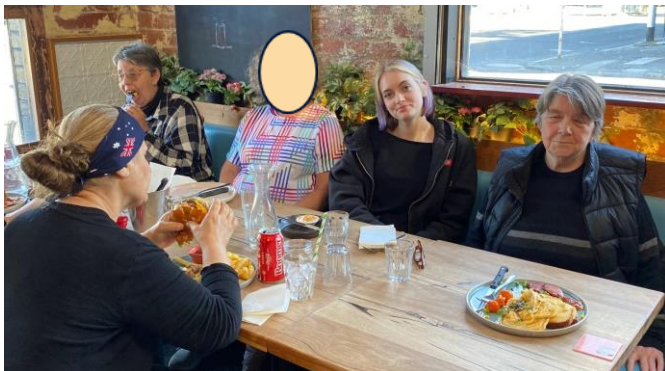
- Manager Melina Caccetta and her team of volunteers continued the work from the previous year.
- The shop is accredited with CentreLink to accept Job Seeker benefit recipients.
- We also accept Work Experience students.
- Mel tendered her resignation in December to concentrate on life after the shop.
- In 2025, the shop was run by Rotarians and volunteers – with new volunteers coming on board to assist.

**100% of the profits from the Op Shop
are spent on our community projects.**

THANKING OUR VOLUNTEERS

- The Op Shop is supported by an amazing team of volunteers. Without them, we would not be as successful or be able to provide the friendly, caring service.
- During National Volunteer Week, they are all recognised with certificates and treated to lunch.
- We thank them again at our Christmas function.
Thank you to Deb, Barb, Fran, Nahla, Rui, Vinh, Glenice, Laura, Ann, Gael.

National 19-25 MAY 2025
Volunteer
Connecting Communities **Week**



END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS



COMMUNITY SERVICE



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



ENVIRONMENT



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION

Members have participated in a number of projects during the year.

These include:

- community festivals and events
- collecting and delivering picture story books and toys
- BBQs and events with Moonee Valley Council and Djerring Hub celebrations which kept us grounded in the local community.
- Mental Health First Aid program for residents of the housing estate focussing on parents and those with a language other than English as their primary language
- BBQ at Bunnings
- Partnering with FlemKen Bowling Club

1,000 STORIES PROJECT



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION

- Members continued to support this project which collects picture storybooks for disadvantaged children.
- These are distributed through the Maternal & Child Health centre at Wingate Avenue.
- Thank you to Karolina for sourcing so many books.
- Thanks to Fran, Chris and Karolina for their assistance in delivering books. Our tally to date is in excess of 9,000 books over 5 years!

Project leader: Lesley McCarthy



DJERRING HUB: OUR COMMUNITY CENTRE

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BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: MOONEE VALLEY COUNCIL



- We were delighted to return to the Clocktower for this inspirational event.
- The club sponsored 8 students and 2 staff from Mount Alexander College:
- Rotarians in attendance were Nicole Marshall and Julia, Karolina Sevcikova, Chris Richardson, Jo Walker and Lesley McCarthy.
- This year's UN Women Theme, ['Count Her In: Invest in Women. Accelerate Progress,'](#)



FLEMKEN BOWLING CLUB: GOOD FRIDAY FAMILY FUN DAY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION

Drew, Jo and Peter were joined by David Dippie to work with members as they held the fun day to raise funds for the Ryal Childrens Hospital Good Friday Appeal. Over \$4600 was collected.



KENSINGTON CITY SOCCER CLUB

PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTIONCOMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENTMATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH

We have sponsored the girls team for 3 years. Our sponsorship allows the club to support those who have difficulty paying for membership and kit.

At the end of year awards evening, Drew assisted with awards.

Coach Juan has assisted at our BBQs.

Our logo



MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION

- The aim of this second program funded by us was to meet a need identified at our Mental Health forum in 2022. Many women from Horn of Africa backgrounds articulated their distress at being unable to support their children and community experiencing mental health issues. They were also unable to commit to 2 full days due to childminding duties.
- The solution: run the program over 4 half days in school hours, AND find a presenter with cultural and linguistic awareness.
- Dr Francis Aquah, a Rotarian from Greensborough was able to meet our requirements so the program ran over 4 days at Djerring Hub.



MOONEE VALLEY FESTIVAL



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



Thanks to Ching Chan for bringing the students from MAC and for their contribution.

YOUTH FEST AT QUEENS PARK: SHARED WITH EAHA

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MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



DID YOU KNOW
THAT EVERY
SAUSAGE TELLS
A STORY?

YOU ARE NOT
JUST BUYING A
SAUSAGE – YOU
ARE FUNDING
ONE OF OUR
PROGRAMS.



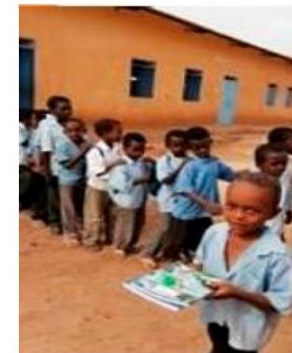
DID YOU KNOW THAT EVERY SAUSAGE TELLS A STORY? YOU ARE NOT JUST BUYING A SAUSAGE!



YOU ARE FUNDING OUR COMMUNITY PROJECTS INCLUDING;

- * BUYING VACCINES TO HELP END POLIO, MALARIA AND CHILDHOOD DISEASES.**
 - * FUNDING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS, DEBATING, SCIENCE AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS.**
 - * INCREASING LITERACY, PROVIDING BOOKS AND LEARNING SUPPORT.**
 - * PLANTING TREES FOR WILDLIFE & THE ENVIRONMENT, GREENING MOONEE VALLEY.**
 - * EDUCATING LEARNER DRIVERS THROUGH YOUTH DRIVER AWARENESS AND L2P.**
 - * RUNNING MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSES.**
 - * HELPING WOMEN FLEEING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, ASSISTING THE HOMELESS.**
 - * FUNDING A PHD SCHOLAR TO DEVELOP MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN,**
 - * SENDING PLAYGROUNDS; HOSPITAL, MEDICAL AND EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT TO OUR PARTNER ORGANISATIONS**
- IN NEPAL, SRI LANKA, INDIA, THE MALDIVES, THE PHILIPPINES AND SOMALIA.**

**TODAY, YOUR SAUSAGE WILL HELP US TO FUND SCHOOLING FOR
STUDENTS IN REFUGEE CAMPS IN SOUTH SUDAN.**



NATIONAL TREE DAY



ENVIRONMENT



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT

This year we partnered with Moonee Valley Council at the Fairbairn Park along the Maribyrnong River. Together with Rotary Brunswick-Tullamarine, Footscray, Keilor East and North Melbourne Moonee Valley Sustainability and the Scouts joined in.

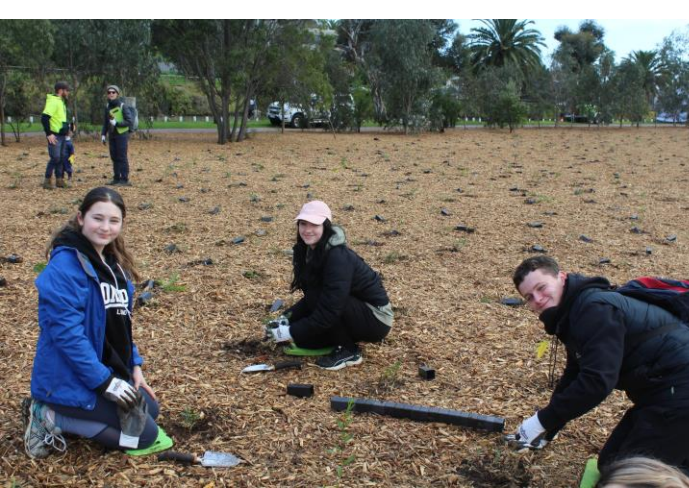
This planting was to restore, replenish and extend the habitat lost during the 2022 floods of the Maribyrnong River.

David Dippie provided a fantastic visual display:

Footscray and Keilor East ran the BBQ and everyone planted.

Shraddha found a Bluey – Samira starred in the photos!

Project leader: Lesley McCarthy



SHARE THE DIGNITY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION

- Members contributed items for the bags which were then packed by our Op Shop volunteers.
- Thank you to Donations in Kind for their assistance.
- Bags were then taken to Jenny at Danny Pearson's office for deliver to ASRC.



CHRISTMAS TOYS



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



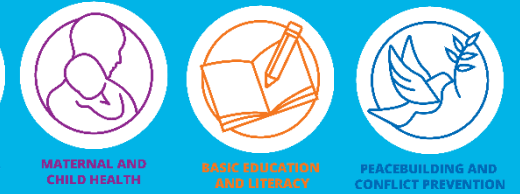
PEACEBUILDING
AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

Thanks to an offer from Donations in Kind we delivered a pallet of new Lego to a number of organisations:

- * Bendigo Bank Seddon for their Giving Tree
- * West Welcome Wagon
- * The Venny
- * Ascot Vale Heights school
- * Djerring Hub playgroup
- * Anglicare



SHOWGROUNDS VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL



Showgrounds Village Shopping Centre asked us to partner with them in a Christmas Appeal.

A carload of toys was collected on 17 December and delivered to:

- * Wingate Avenue Maternal and Child Health Nurses and playgroup,
- * The Venny
- * The Salvation Army
- * Helping Hand Mission



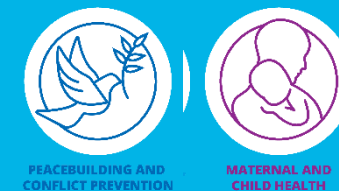
RIMERN



- Our club is a foundation member.
- Members volunteer as able on the 4th Thursday of each month.
- Through Farnham Street NLC, we connect with people in need of furniture and liaise with RIMERN.
- We have a symbiotic partnership with the Op Shop for excess goods, unsuitable items and rags. Larry Robb from Rotary North Melbourne collects excess stock weekly.
- This year we have helped 3 people/families obtain furniture and household goods.



SUPPORT FOR THE HOMELESS: YOUTH PROJECTS



The Op Shop donates warm clothing, shoes and sleeping bags to Youth Projects.

YP is a charity based in Hosier Lane in the city which provides health, outreach, employment, education, and training services to individuals experiencing disadvantage including unemployment, homelessness, mental health challenges, and alcohol and other drug dependency.

Peter Duras from Rotary Central Melbourne collects fortnightly – or as needed.



**youth
projects**



Neighbourhood Spirit Awards 2025

Certificate of appreciation awarded to

Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington

For making a difference in their local community

Moonee Valley Mayor
Councillor Ava Adams
23 March 2025

YOUTH PROGRAMS



- Students from MAC attended International Women's Day at MVCC
 - We sponsored 2 students to attend NYSF:
Simeon from MAC and Charlotte from PEGS.
 - We sponsored Cosmo and Chloe from MAC to attend RYPEN..
 - The Del King Scholarship at MAC was awarded to Ayah Omar.
 - The Ted Frank Vocational Award: Toby Pederson
 - Ascot Vale Heights Special School: Ethan De Saini
- Awards were given to year 6 students at local primary schools.





BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH

- We were delighted to participate in Ryda at the Melbourne Greyhound Racing Centre in Broadmeadows on 9 November with students from MAC.
- Drew, John, Jo, Shraddha, Jess Smith and Lesley assisted with supervision and organisation of students.
- The program was supported by a grant from Transurban which covered bus costs.



ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE



Our club has sponsored an outbound student from January – December 2025. Jay Tatulaschwili is a Kensington resident who approached us for information.

Jay flew out of Melbourne on 17 January to Denmark, where he is being hosted by the Rotary Club of Odder on the Jutland Peninsula. This club has a strong engagement with Youth Exchange – their Youth Chair's daughter Madeleine came to Portland in 2018-2019.

Maria Silber from Rotary Footscray is the RYE Country coordinator for Denmark.

Blazer presentation in early December was inspiring listening to students' speeches.



INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS



- Volunteering at Donations in Kind.
- Japan – Global Grant Scholar Haruka Tanaka
- Kismayo – books to establish libraries in schools
- Maldives – establishing libraries on remote atolls
- Nepal – providing educational support for students in rural and remote areas
- Puntland – supporting Jarriban University Hospital in Puntland, Somalia
- Sri Lanka – supporting establishment of stroke units in rural and remote areas.
- RORP

DONATIONS IN KIND INC



ENVIRONMENT

BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACYPEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTIONMATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTHDISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT

- Our club has been a member since 2010.
- Lesley McCarthy is our representative on the DiK Committee.
- Members have volunteered their time in the clothing, stationery, books and toys aisles and on the Open Days.
- Through Donations in Kind, our club has sourced hospital, medical and educational equipment, books and school stationery and assorted items for our local and international projects.
- Lesley creates the DiK Newsletter.
- Peter has borrowed the DiK vans for RORP collections.



Donations in Kind



GLOBAL GRANT SCHOLAR HARUKA TANAKA



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY

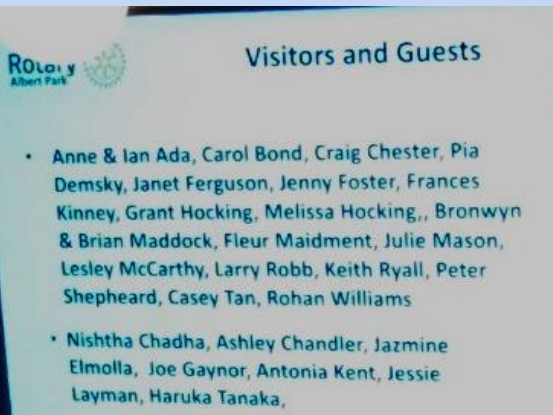
- We have been delighted to act as host club for Haruka Tanaka, a Global Grant Masters Degree student from Nigata, Japan.
- She arrived in Melbourne on 12 July 2023 and was quickly welcomed into the club.
- Haruka has attended many events throughout the year including club meetings and events:
 - Paul Harris Society lunches where she had the opportunity to connect with other scholars
 - Paul Harris Foundation breakfast where she met other scholars
 - National Tree Day
 - Moonee Valley Festival and Youth Fest and much more.
- She has been hosted by Drew and Barbara Sheehan, Peter and Bev Cribb, Chris Richardson, Jo Walker and Shraddha Sharma and has been included in many experiences.
- Haruka has now completed her studies and will graduate on 13 August before returning to Japan.





Meeting the scholars:
Lucienne Heyworth, Laura
Coburn, Hyuga Nishimura
and Hannah Gandy

YouthFest with Drew and Jo



Rotary Albert Park
Foundation dinner



OpShop with Lesley, Vinh,
Rui and Muna {Possum
Magic for her nephew}

LIBRARIES IN SCHOOLS IN KISMAYO



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



MONTANARA'S VISION
YADASTU GUNA

Abdi Hassan introduced us to Abdihakim Hakim Ali who is working with the Ministry of Tourism and Education in Puntland. Having heard of our Books to the Maldives program, he was keen to seek our assistance.

Robert Akeroyd and Donations in Kind have supplied 8 pallets of fiction and non fiction: 2 pallets of school stationery were also supplied.

The community have purchased a container which is stored in St Albans while they collect funds for shipping.

Project leader: Abdi Hassan



ESTABLISHING LIBRARIES IN THE MALDIVES



The High Commissioner to the Maldives David Jessup had funds to assist with shipping, so through Rotary Donations in Kind and a private donor, Robert Akeroyd, Peter Cribb and a team of Rotarians collected 5 pallets of books which were then sorted, repacked and loaded. DiK donated another 4 pallets of children's books, and a pallet of student/school stationery.

Books were sorted/culled for suitability, and boxed up for transfer to Tullamarine and the agent.

Project leader: Peter Cribb



BACK TO SCHOOL EDUCATION: NEPAL



This project is supported by a Global Grant and a grant from the Balwyn Centenary Grants program. It is being managed by the Rotary Club of Tripureswor and 3 NGOs. There are 4 schools involved in the Siraha and Udayapur districts.

The project aims to return to school, children who have dropped out of school, particularly girls. Literacy rates are low and the numbers of children completing secondary education is very low. These are marginalised and low socio economic communities.

Project leader: Shraddha Sharma



RORP:

ROTARY OVERSEAS RELOCATED PLAYGROUNDS



- Peter Cribb continues to lead RORP in our District with support from Bob Allardice and the team at Rotary Nunawading.
- He is exploring more playgrounds in the west and has new partnerships with contractors connected now to Moonee Valley.
- Peter and Shraddha are now working towards creating a video to showcase RORP.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hozcuPmdiWQ>



ESTABLISHING STROKE UNITS: SRI LANKA

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COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH

We partnered with the Rotary Club of Colombo and the Sri Lanka Ministry of Health to send 2 containers filled with hospital and medical equipment to establish Stroke Units in 9 rural hospitals.

The Australian Sri Lankan Association in Adelaide assisted with funding and packed the container at RARE {DiK SA}

Project leader: Peter Cribb



**Donated by the Rotary Club of
Flemington Kensington and
Australia Sri Lanka Association
of South Australia**

For the Stroke Unit Project of
the National Stroke Association of
Sri Lanka in collaboration
with Rotary Club of Colombo



MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO JARRIBAN, PUNTLAND



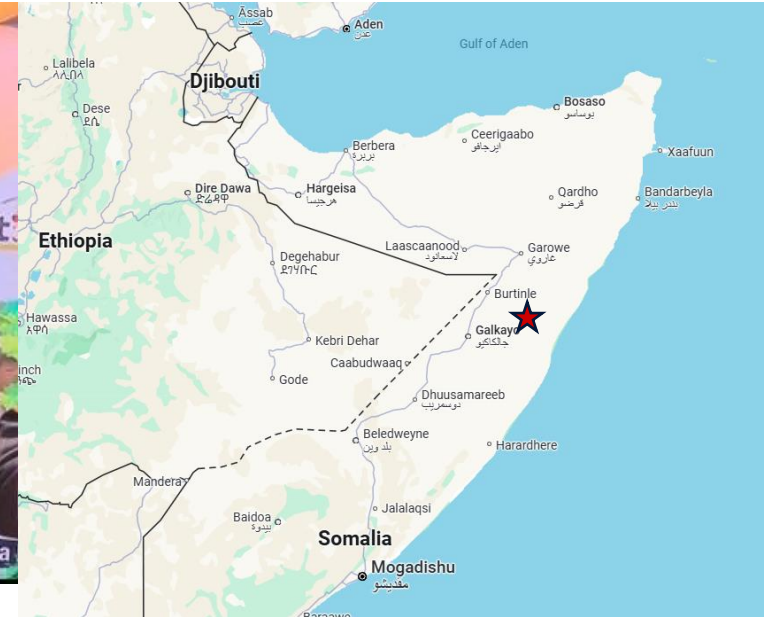
Abdi Hassan and Mohammed Abbas Omar approached the club for help in sending hospital and medical equipment to Jarriban University Hospital in Puntland state, Somalia.

A long and difficult process ensued with many legal and logistical challenges, however, the container shipped 27 August and arrived in Jarriban 27 March 2025.

Members of the community raised \$10,000 towards shipping. strict Foundation grant has been received while the club will contribute the balance.

Project leader: Abdi Hassan





Jarriban is a town on the main highway from the Port of Bosasso to Galkayo and towns between. As well as the hospital, there is the Jarriban International University.

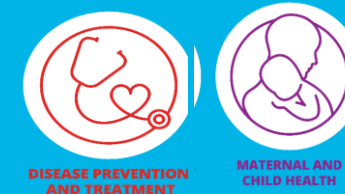




Donated by the Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington, Australia and the Rotary Foundation.



AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH: PHD SCHOLAR



Catherine Johnson is undertaking a PhD based on Mental Health First Aid which is aiming to train teachers to provide early intervention to primary school aged children experiencing mental health problems.

Our club is a funding partner with ARH and University of Melbourne. \$36k over 3 years.

Catherine has published several papers on her research:

Catherine Johnson (0000-0003-2443-4826) – ORCID



PETER CRIBB: VICTORIAN SENIORS AWARD



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION

Anwar and Sadiya Drar, Beate McManus, Shraddha Sharma and Lesley McCarthy joined Peter and Bev and children Meredith and Gavin in a moving ceremony at Government House in October.

Peter was nominated for his longstanding work with multicultural communities and his inspiration to others.

2024
**Victorian Senior
of the Year Awards**

COTA
VICTORIA

Victorian
Seniors
Festival

VICTORIA



VALE

- Peter Donnellan, partner of Josie Magri passed away on 20 May. He was 88 years old. Brian was a Past President of the Rotary Club of Pascoe Vale.
- Bob Allardice, RORP Champion passed away on 11 June after a challenging battle with cancer. Bob was a member of the Rotary Club of Nunawading. He was 71 years old.

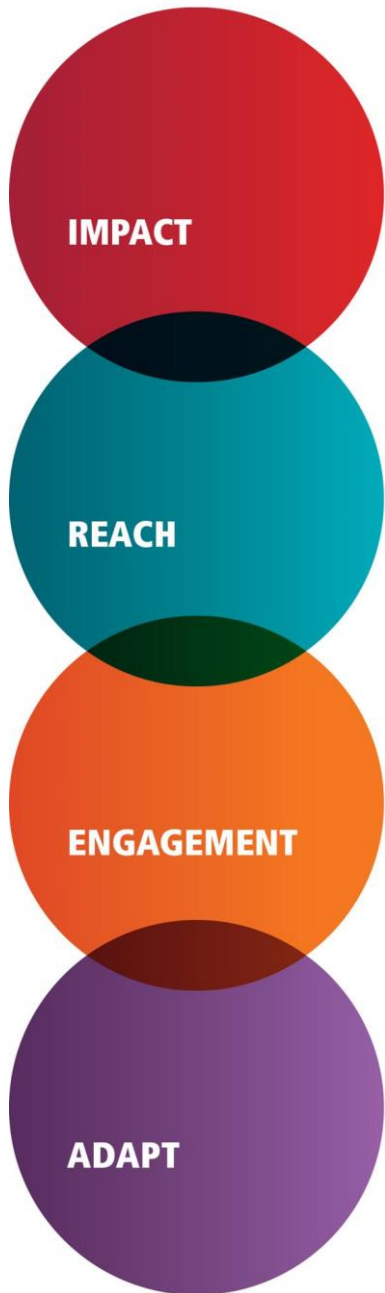


ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



Abdi, Karolina Melina and Nicole attended the RLI training at Djerring Hub. There they learnt more about the history of Rotary, the Rotary Foundation, grants, areas of focus. They also learnt about different types of leadership and how to lead a team of volunteers. Thank you for your time and enthusiasm.





IMPACT:

In this financial year, we have donated \$77,098 to our local and international projects, scholarships and youth programs.

The impact is measured through Rotary Showcase, our website, newsletters and Facebook posts, through Networker, RDU magazine and FlemKen News.

REACH:

We connect with councils, community and business organisations, schools and social welfare groups. We extend our reach through regular publicity.

ENGAGEMENT:

Our members, volunteers and community connections are involved, active and listened to. We engage with council teams, community groups and the trader's association to partner in events and share our work. Members have volunteered over 6,500 hours of service this year.

ADAPT:

We seek new perspectives and ideas, have created a culture where we are willing to take risks. We have changed meetings, schedules, commitments and projects to meet the needs of our members and community.

WHERE OUR FUNDS WENT IN 2024-2025

International included 5 projects:

Stroke project Sri Lanka

Education project Nepal

Medical project Puntland, Somalia

Books to the Maldives and Kismayo

Youth included:

NYSF

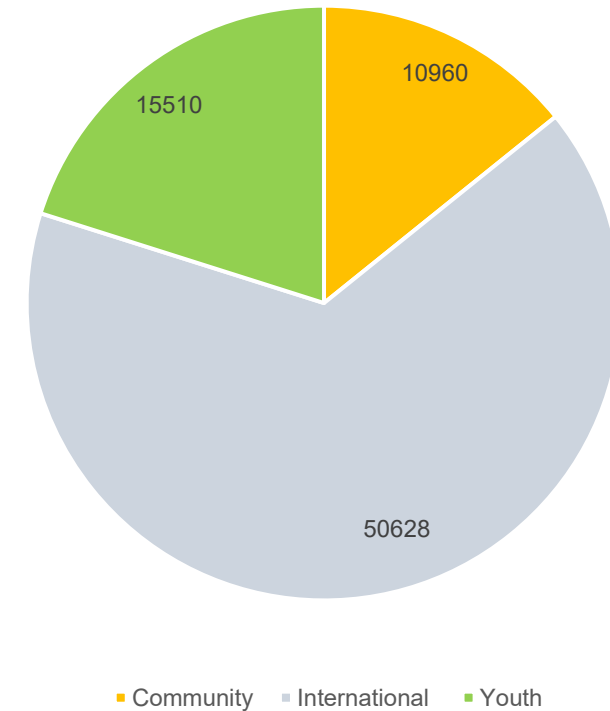
RYDA

RYPEN

Scholarships

International Women's Day

Expenditure 2024-2025



PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION

Our Facebook page and website are updated regularly with activities.

We submit stories on our activities and projects to:

Networker

Rotary Down Under

FlemKen News

Inner North West News

Rotary On The Move – Zone 8

We have been in each edition of FlemKen News.



Lesley McCarthy

Peter Michael Donnellan, a resident of Ormond Street, Kensington and extended long-term lawyer in Flemington has died after a long illness.

He is survived by his wife Kien and daughter Susan.

Peter was a member of the Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington from 2008 until his retirement in 2021. During those years he held the positions of Secretary for 3 years and of Treasurer for 3 years.



Jay being welcomed at the Blund airport with Tabita and her husband

Jay's Grand Adventure Begins

Lesley McCarthy

Rotary Youth Exchange is a 12-month international experience for 16-year-olds providing cultural, social, educational and language immersion in a safe, supportive home hosting environment.

Each year, hundreds of teenagers from countries across the globe take up the offer of the adventure of a lifetime where they develop independence, life skills and lifelong friendships.

Flemington Kensington Rotary has sponsored Jay Tatulaschwili, a Kensington teenager who flew out to begin his year in Denmark recently.

Jay has been placed with the Rotary Club of Odder on the Jutland Peninsula in Denmark. Odder has a strong reputation with youth exchange hosting and sponsoring a number of

students each year. Jay is being hosted by the club's Youth Counsellor Tabita and her family, whose daughter Madeline came to Portland as an exchange student in 2018-2019.

Jay and his family are well known to many through their significant sporting involvement in football, cricket and basketball at the Kensington Sports Club.

He has already sent some photos back to us and with technology at his fingertips, has contact with his family.

Flemington Kensington have hosted and sponsored many students previously, the last pre-COVID was AJ, son of Sean McConville and the late Del King, who went to Germany.

Are you interested?

Contact the club at rotaryflemington.org.au and read more at <https://www.rotaryyouthexchangevictoria.org.au/victoria>

Telling our stories is a way of engaging with community, sharing our work and promoting Rotary.

We celebrate our achievements and focus on impact and reach.

community such as increasing the amount of

Rotary Flemington Kensington

Supporting our local community for 37 years:

The Opportunity Shop 444 Racecourse Road;

Purchase of an L2P car for learner drivers;

Supporting students with scholarships at local schools, Youth Leadership programs and science camps.

Food pantries at the Op Shop, Ascot Vale, Kensington and Flemington Mission. Funding of Mental Health First Aid; programs at Farnham Street Neighbourhood Centre, KCSC, The Venny, Kensington Legal Aid, Wingate Avenue, Polyglot Children's Theatre and more.

Funds for an Australian Rotary Health PhD scholarship, Live For Lily; Abbey Solo Foundation; cancer, stroke and Parkinson's disease research.

Partnerships with Donations in Kind and Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network. School Garden Projects, Fundraising and community BBQs at Moonee Valley council events. Tree planting and revegetation projects with MVCC.

You are invited to join us. How can we help you explore and pursue your ideas?
www.rotaryflemington.org.au





Mental Health First Aid benefits refugee community

The Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington, Vic, recently presented a successful Mental Health First Aid program to address mental health concerns in its local community.

MEMBERS of the Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington, Vic, were well aware of the challenges facing residents of the social housing estate in the area, having worked with and supported them for many years.

Most residents are refugees from the Horn of Africa diaspora and experienced trauma due to drought, famine and war,

often spending many years in refugee camps. To address community distress, the club held a mental health forum in 2022.

The forum highlighted a desperate need for support for families dealing with the mental health of their children and teenagers, so members began exploring ways to address this need.

With the support of a

district grant, the club set about organising a Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) program. Moonee Valley Council offered their facility at the Djerring Hub, with a large and airy classroom containing audio visual facilities.

Understanding the background of participants was crucial to the success of the program, so a culturally sensitive and linguistically capable presenter was a priority. Dr Francis Aquah OAM, of the Rotary Club of Greensborough, Vic, was selected and agreed to moderate the program.

As most of the participants were mothers, the program was altered to run over four days during school hours rather than the usual two full days. Childcare was also offered.

Collaboration, community and connecting with the environment



National Tree Day on Sunday, July 28, saw five clubs in Victoria's Maribyrnong Valley Community Group partner with Moonee Valley Council in a huge tree planting exercise.

By Lesley McCarthy
Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington, Vic

ON a cold but clear July morning, members of the Rotary Clubs of Brunswick-Tullamarine, Flemington-Kensington, Footscray, Keilor East and North Melbourne ventured out to restore, replenish and extend habitat lost during the 2022 floods of the Maribyrnong River. Essendon MP Danny Pearson was joined by local Councillors, District Governor Michael Lapina, District Governor-elect Peter Shephard and Rotary Activate President Alex Lapina.



Collaborating to support stroke victims in Sri Lanka

The Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington, Vic, has partnered with the Rotary Club of Colombo, Sri Lanka, the Australian Sri Lankan Association South Australia, Rotary Australia Repurposing Equipment and Rotary Donations in Kind to outfit stroke units in nine hospitals in Sri Lanka.

SRI LANKA has a very high incidence of stroke yet just 74 dedicated stroke beds across nine hospitals in the whole country. Access

to a stroke unit is possible for about 14 per cent of sufferers - in high income countries it is 91 per cent. To address these alarming

statistics, a project was developed following a meeting between the Minister for Health, Past District Governor Senake Amerasinghe and Past District Governor Puludu De Goyssa from the Rotary Club of Colombo, President of the National Stroke Association Dr Harsha Gunasekara, and Peter Cribb of the Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington.

A detailed and extensive 'wish list' was compiled by Dr Gunasekara and his team and conveyed to Rotary Donations in Kind. As hospital beds were still in short supply following the COVID pandemic, Peter reached out to Rotary Australia Repurposing Equipment (RARE) for support.

With assistance from former MLA Craig Ondarchie, a connection was made with the Australian Sri



Peter Cribb (middle) with Rotary Flemington Kensington colleagues at Government House

Peter Cribb - Victorian Seniors Awards

Lesley McCarthy

Rotary Flemington Kensington Past President Peter Cribb has been recognised with a Victorian Seniors Award in a formal ceremony at Government House during Seniors Month.

Peter is a long time Rotarian and a former director of the Flemington Bendigo Bank. He has been the inspiration behind a number of community projects including establishment of the Rotary Op Shop, the RoadStart learner driver program and the collection of decommissioned council playgrounds for overseas schools.

Rotary President Lesley McCarthy, who nominated Peter, was joined by Past President Shradha Sharma, Beate McManus and Anwar Alishek along with Peter's proud family: his wife Bev, children Gavin and Meredith and friends to share the day with him.

Peter was one of 15 seniors aged 62 to 94

by His Excellency the Honourable Professor James Angus AO, with the Victorian Minister for Ageing, the Honourable Ingrid Stitt and the Honourable Jacinta Allan, Premier of Victoria

The recognition stated that Peter has volunteered his experiences to support communities close to home and abroad as part of his involvement in a range of organisations

Peter has supported projects to ship recycled playgrounds, educational material and medical supplies to disadvantaged countries.

In his local area, Peter is known for his commitment to supporting children and families from Ethiopian, Eritrean, Somali and Sudanese communities as a tutor and mentor

A career mathematician and university lecturer, Peter's passion for education continues through his efforts to support children and families from diverse backgrounds to build their maths and language skills.

Lesley McCarthy is the president of Rotary

Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA)



Held across Australia, in partnership with Rotary, RYDA supports teachers on the journey as they provide their students with the tools and understanding they need to see themselves as active, responsible road citizens. RYDA provides students with the tools, skills and motivation to take action and stay safe on our roads as both drivers and passengers throughout their lives. In District 9805, Rotary Flemington Kensington has sponsored 125 students from a local secondary school to participate in the program.

Held at the Melbourne Greyhound Racing Arena in Broadmeadows, this first offering from the club was an invaluable and informative experience for all, with a range of sessions including the popular speed, braking, crash test dummy demonstration. With six separate and discrete sessions, and presented by Anton, Karen and the team, students participated in the fast paced and challenging sessions.

Topics included:

- knowing themselves as drivers
- personal responsibility
- accident investigations, crashes and the reasons,
- how fatigue and state of mind impacts on your driving,
- phones and distractions,
- car safety features,
- speed, braking and distances, and
- risk awareness.

Celebrating our work through publications.

OUR STORY IN NUMBERS:

Members: 32 {27 active and 5 honorary}

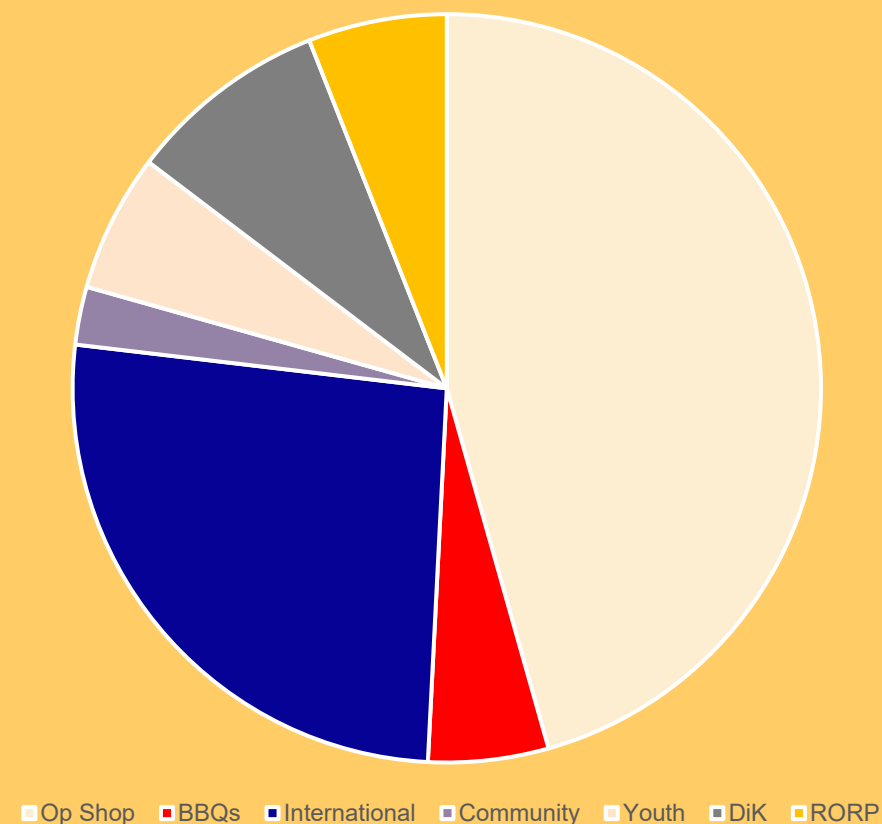
Volunteer hours 2024-2025: 6,156

Funds spent: \$77,098

Projects completed: 25

Impact: immeasurable!

Volunteer hours 2024-2025



UNITE FOR GOOD



**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT:**

***FRANCESCO AREZZO,
ROTARY CLUB OF RAGUSA,
ITALY***



2025-2026 LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Zone 8 Director: PDG Jennifer Scott, Central Blue Mountains
- District Governor Peter Shephard, Altona
- Community Group Leader David Dippie, Keilor East
- President Melina Caccetta
- Secretary Lesley McCarthy
- Treasurer Peter Cribb
- Board members

