

2025-2026 President's Changeover

1 July 2026

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



**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**



IN THE 2025-2026 ROTARY
YEAR, ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT FRANCESCO
ARREZZO INVITED US TO:

“UNITE FOR GOOD”

2025-2026 LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Rotary International President Francesco Arrezzo, Ragusa, Italy
- Zone 8 Director, PDG Jennifer Scott, Central Blue Mountains
- District Governor Peter Shepherd, Altona
- Community Group Leader David Dippie, Keilor East

- President Melina Caccetta
- Secretary Lesley McCarthy
- Treasurer Peter Cribb
- Board members Shraddha Sharma, Drew Sheehan, Jeff Weitzel,



MEETINGS

We continued to hold our meetings fortnightly: Breakfast at Mama Bear on the 1st Wednesday and dinner at several different venues on the 3rd Wednesday.

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:

Shirhan Abdulkadir

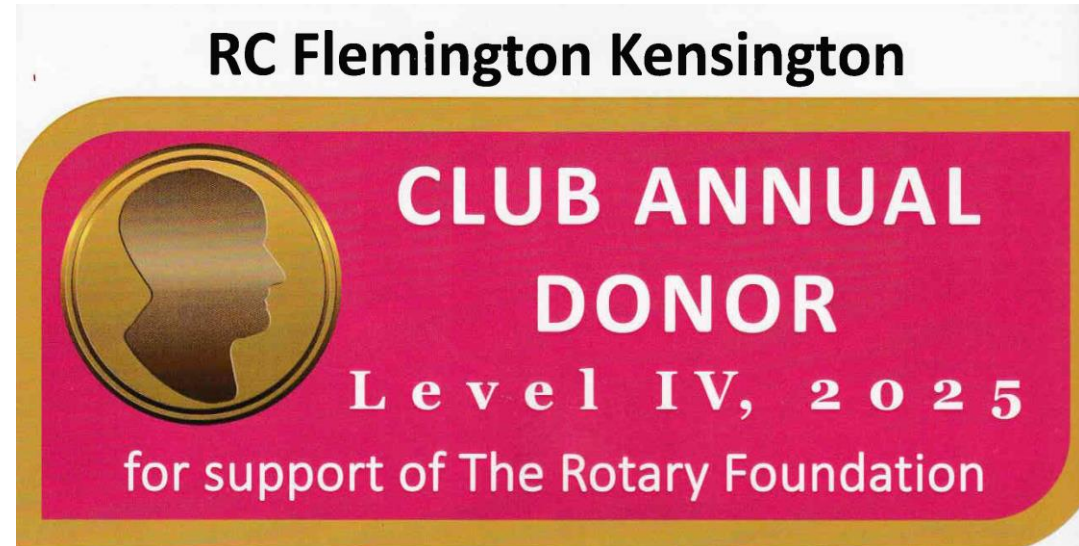
Ilhan {Soraya} Mohamed

Jean Turnbull



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S VISIT

- District Governor Peter Shephard and District Governor Elect Graeme Hope visited our club on 17 December 2025.
- Peter presented PP Lesley with the Rotary Foundation Presidential Citation.
- He also assisted with the induction of our 3 new members.





2024-25
CLUB EXCELLENCE AWARD

HONORING THE ROTARY CLUB OF

Flemington Kensington

FOR FOSTERING A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE FOR ITS MEMBERS
AND REFLECTING THE VALUES OF ROTARY

Stephanie A. Urchick

STEPHANIE A. URCHICK
President, Rotary International

Mark Daniel Maloney

MARK DANIEL MALONEY
Chair, The Rotary Foundation

OP SHOP



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



ENVIRONMENT



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION

- The shop has operated this last 12 months led by Rotarians and a team of volunteers.
- The shop accepts Centrelink recipients and Work Experience students.
- Mel tendered her resignation in December 2024.

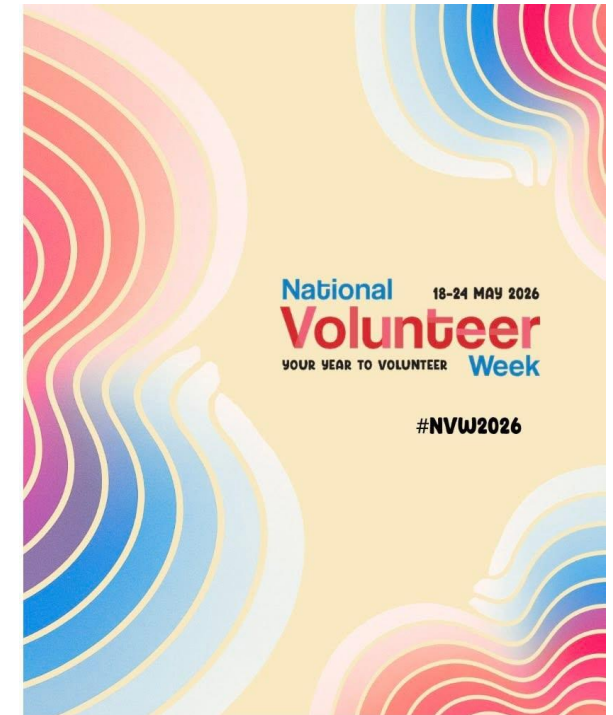
**100% of the profits from the Op Shop
are spent on our community projects.**

Rotary 
Club of Flemington Kensington
Foundation Pty Ltd



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.
- We recognised them with lunch and chocolates during National Volunteer Week.
- This year we have added 3 new volunteers to the team.



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
- Djerring Hub celebrations which kept us grounded in the local community.
- BBQ at Bunnings
- Partnering with FlemKen Bowling Club for the Good Friday appeal
- Tree planting with MVCC on National Tree Day
- 3 meal sessions with Food with Friends

1,000 STORIES PROJECT



MALE 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 centres at Wingate Avenue and Hopetoun, to Djerring Hub and local schools.
- 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 10,000 books over 5 years!

Project leader: Lesley McCarthy



DJERRING HUB: OUR COMMUNITY CENTRE



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



FOOD AND FRIENDS



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION

In November and December, a team of volunteers led by Melina delivered free meals to local residents at Djerring Hub. Over the 3 nights, 600 meals were prepared and delivered {a mix of traditional, vegetarian, halal}.

Food was sourced through donations from the Life Church in West Melbourne, and was prepared, cooked and served by:

- Women from the Horn of Africa communities
- Rotarians from Flemington Kensington
- Rotarians from Pascoe Vale, West Footscray and Williamstown
- Community volunteers
- MVCC staff

The launch was attended by Mayor Rose Iser, a number of MVCC staff as well as Djerring Hub staff.



FOOD AND FRIENDS



BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH



PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: MOONEE VALLEY COUNCIL



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY

- We were delighted to return to the Clocktower for this inspirational event.
- The club sponsored 4 students and a teacher from Mount Alexander College:
- Rotarians in attendance were Nicole Marshall and Charlotte, Karolina Sevcikova, Chris Richardson, Beate McManus, Debra Ryan and Frances Stratford..



MOONEE VALLEY FESTIVAL



ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION



Valley

**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 Afton Street Reserve, West Essendon. Together with Rotary Footscray and Keilor East, Moonee Valley Sustainability and the Scouts, Guides and Cubs This planting was to restore, replenish and extend the habitat along the Maribyrnong. David Dippie provided a fantastic visual display: Footscray and Keilor East ran the BBQ and everyone planted. We introduced RYE Lenka and Malene to tree planting and Rotary BBQ sausages!

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 in a full afternoon.
- Additional items were purchased, obtained from the shop and from Donations in Kind.
- Bags were then taken to Jenny at Danny Pearson's office for delivery to ASRC.



CHRISTMAS TOYS



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION

Toys were again distributed, thanks to member donations, the Showgrounds Village toy drive and from Donations in Kind.

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



RIMERN



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION

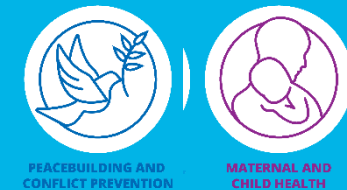


ENVIRONMENT

- 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.

Vinh leads the team which identifies and collects items.

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



**youth
projects**

YOUTH PROGRAMS



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION

- Students from MAC attended International Women's Day at MVCC
- We sponsored Cosmo and Chloe from MAC to attend RYPEN.
- The Del King Scholarship at MAC was awarded to Faiqa Sawiz
- The Ted Frank Vocational Award: TJ Truong
- Awards were given to year 6 students at local primary schools.



RYDA



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH

- Thanks to a grant from Moonee Valley Council, we were able to offer Ryda to 4 schools. This grant covered bus costs and a small contribution towards offsetting student fees.
 - Buckley Park College: 9 September 2025
 - Essendon Keilor College: 16 February 2026
 - MAC: 3 November 2025
 - Rosehill College {November 2026}
-
- Drew, Frances, John, Jo, Shraddha, Hayden & Jess Smith and Lesley assisted with supervision and organisation of students. Sally from Keilor East and Judy from Essendon also came along.



Rotary
District 9800



UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Shep's Shoutout

Flemington Kensington

Rotary Youth Driver
Awareness Program



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Shephard".

Peter Shephard
District Governor 2025-2026

27 June 2026

Dated

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE: OUTBOUND



Our club sponsored an outbound student from January – December 2025. Jay Tatulaschwili is a Kensington resident was 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.

Jay gave his return presentation to the club on 18 February 2025. Our current inbound student, Lenka from Czechia and Malene from Denmark, currently being sponsored by Keilor East attended.



ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE: INBOUND



On 13 July we welcomed Lenka Pocarovska from Czechia. She comes from Miroslav which is located in the south Moravian area, 33kms south west of Brno. This area is know for grape and apricot growing. Her parents are Marie,a teacher and Tomas, an analyst and she has an older brother Jan. Lenka was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Znojmo. <https://www.facebook.com/rotaryclubznojmo/>

Lenka was greeted at Melbourne Airport by the Youth Exchange team, District Governor Peter Shepherd and her first host family, Scott and Carla Tatulaschwili and their sons and Lesley.



LENKA'S YEAR IN AUSTRALIA

Lenka has been hosted by Scott and Carla Tatulaschwili, Chris Richardson, Kate and Alistair and Maria Silber. She has also spent time with Peter and Bev Cribb, Hayden and Jess Smith, Drew and Barbara Sheehan and Jo Walker and family.



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. She has been hosted by Peter and Bev Cribb, Drew and Barbara Sheehan, Chris Richardson, Jo Walker, Shraddha Sharma and Lesley McCarthy.
- Haruka graduated on 13 August. Lesley attended the graduation ceremony. Haruka's mother came to Melbourne to meet her and see the graduation.



INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS



- Volunteering at Donations in Kind
- **Cambodia** – a multi club medical project
- **Japan** – hosting Global Grant Scholar Haruka Tanaka
- **Kismayo Puntland, Somalia** – collecting books to establish libraries in schools
- **Maldives** – collecting books to establish libraries on remote atolls
- **Nepal** – a Global Grant providing educational support for students in the remote districts of Siraha and Udayapur
- **Nepal** - supporting the Laligurash education project with RC Central Melbourne
- **Puntland Somalia** – sending a container of medical equipment to Jarriban University Hospital in Puntland, Somalia
- **Sri Lanka #1** – sending 3 containers of medical equipment to support establishment of stroke units
- **Sri Lanka #2** - assisting the BEAP Foundation with fundraising to support the flood appeal
- **Sri Lanka #3** - sending 10 emergency hospital beds via RARE South Australia
- RORP – partnering with Rotary Clubs of Pascoe Vale and Williamstown to collect playgrounds

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.



Donations in Kind



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



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



ENVIRONMENT

- Peter Cribb continues to lead RORP which is now a multidistrict effort.
- We have partnered with Rotary Pascoe Vale and Rotary Williamstown in a 3 way team to manage collections across our district and the north of 9815.
- A stage location has been obtained at sunshine thanks to DG Peter's contacts.
- There are currently 8 playgrounds stored waiting for the last 2 to send to the Maldives along with 5 pallets of books.



ESTABLISHING STROKE UNITS: SRI LANKA



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 23 containers filled with hospital and medical equipment to establish Stroke Units in 9 rural hospitals. RARE {DiK SA} has assisted with shipping 10 emergency beds. The 3rd container shipped from DiK in late May and has now been unloaded for distribution to the 2 designated hospitals.



Project leader: Peter Cribb

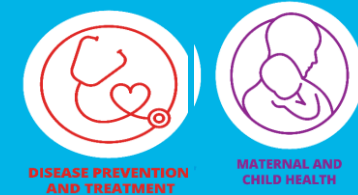


**Donated by the Rotary Club of
Flemington Kensington and
Australia Sri Lanka Association
of South Australia**

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



AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH: PHD SCHOLAR



Catherine Johnson has now completed 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



LESLEY MCCARTHY: VICTORIAN SENIORS AWARD



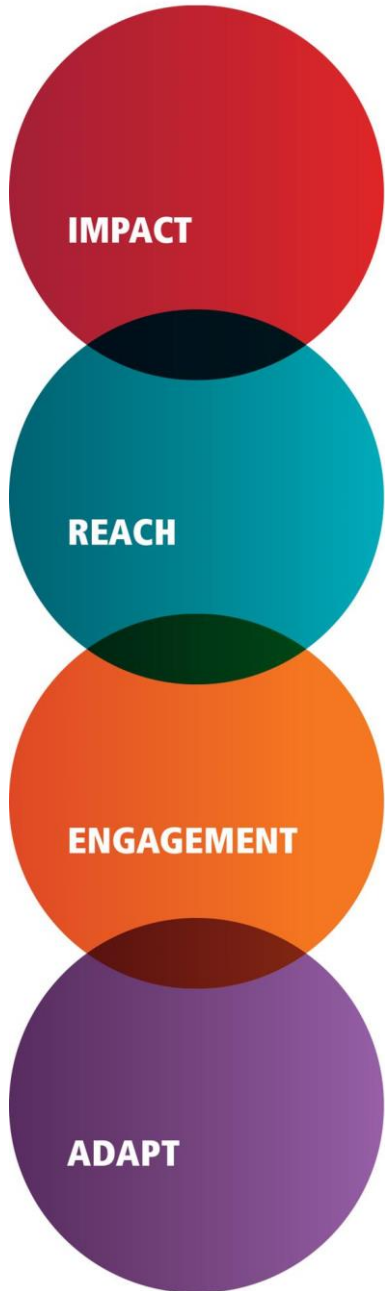
PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION

Beate McManus and Bill McHardy, Shraddha Sharma joined Peter and Bev Cribb in a moving ceremony at Government House in October when Lesley was recognised for her efforts.

Her husband Bill, and son David and his wife attended.

Lesley was nominated for her longstanding work with Rotary, particularly in literacy and education.





IMPACT:

In this financial year, we have donated \$65,000 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 11,000 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:



Community:

1,000 stories

Share the Dignity

Youth Projects for the homeless

Christmas toys

RIMERN

Food and Friends

International:

Stroke container #3 Sri Lanka

Emergency medical beds Sri Lanka through RARE

Education project Nepal

Multiclub project Cambodia

Laligurash education Nepal

Youth:

RYLA

RYDA

RYPEN

9 school scholarships

International Women's Day

Ascot Vale Heights school garden

Australian Rotary Health PhD Scholar final year

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 an ad in each edition of FlemKen News.



Jay being welcomed at the Blind 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



OUR STORY IN NUMBERS:



Members: 32 {27 active and 5 honorary}

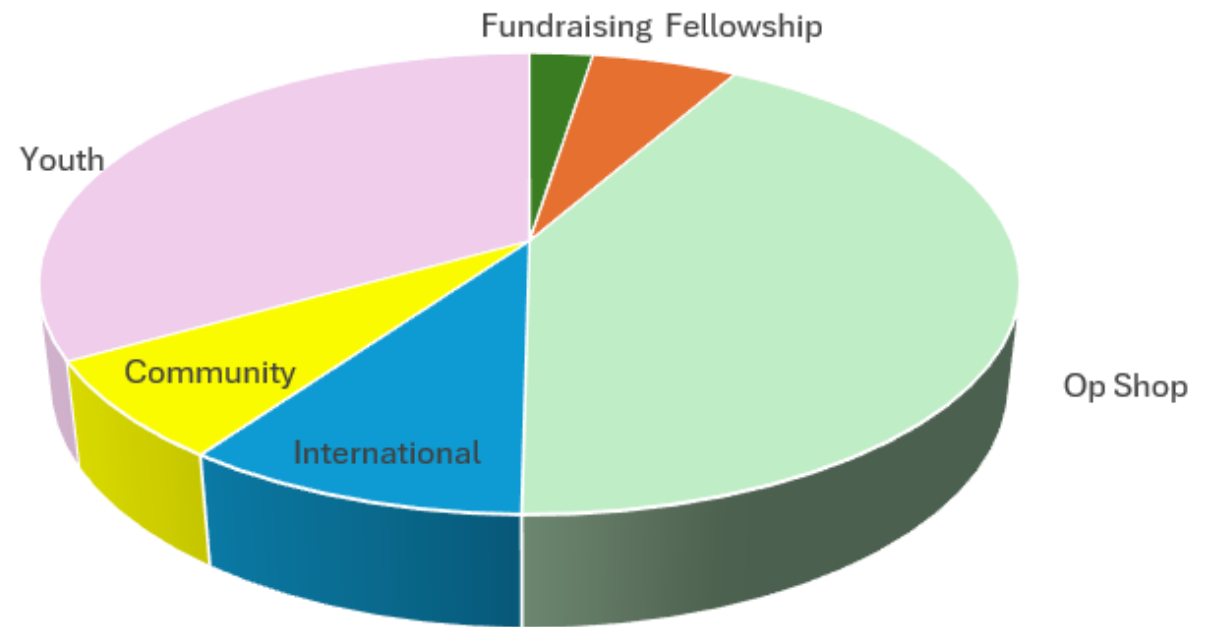
Volunteer hours 2025-2026: >11,000

Funds spent: \$65,858

Projects completed:

Impact: immeasurable!

Volunteer hours 2025-2026: >11,000



2026-2027 LEADERSHIP TEAM

- RI President Olayinka Hakeem Babalola, Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria
- Zone 8 Director: PDG Jennifer Scott, Central Blue Mountains
- District Governor Graeme Hope, Camberwell
- Community Group Leader David Dippie, Keilor East

- President Peter Cribb & Jeff Weitzel
- Secretary Lesley McCarthy
- Treasurer Beate McManus

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

