

## ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

*The Rotary Club of Flemington Inc.*

**ABN 47 754 561 417**

**P.O. Box 64,  
Flemington 3031**

**[rotaryflemington.org.au/](http://rotaryflemington.org.au/)**

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**Club 24401  
District 9800**



**FLEMINGTON  
ROTARY**

**MEETS HERE  
WEDNESDAYS 7.45AM—8.45AM**

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**Rotary  
Club of Flemington**



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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.

## 2017-2018 Office Bearers and District 9800 representatives

### Board

President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
President Elect

Sam Nicol  
Lesley McCarthy  
Peter Donnellan  
Lesley McCarthy



### Directors

Club Service  
Community Service  
International Service  
Youth Service  
Foundation Chair

Rob Lawrence  
Lyn Borghouts / Allan Bruno  
Elianna Cuppiari  
Del King  
Paul Perrottet

### Office Bearers

Bulletin  
Investment Committee  
Onto Conference  
Opportunity Shops  
Photographer  
Program  
Protection Officer  
Public Relations & Marketing  
Sergeant at Arms  
Weekly Attendance  
BBQ Program  
Webmaster

Lesley McCarthy  
Allan Bruno/Hugh Stewart  
Del King  
Allan Bruno/Jon Temby  
Lesley McCarthy/Paul Perrottet  
Lesley McCarthy  
Peter Donnellan  
Lyn Borghouts  
Geoff Cawsey  
Geoff Cawsey/Ted Frank  
Allan Bruno/Ted Frank  
Paul Perrottet

### District 9800 Representatives

Allan Bruno  
Chris Drenen  
Del King  
Lesley McCarthy

Donations in Kind Inc. Board Member  
Youth Exchange Committee  
Youth Exchange Committee  
Editor, District 9800 Newsletter  
Leadership & Development Team



## **President's Repot 2017-2018 Sam Nicol**

2017-2018 has been a successful year for Flemington Rotary. It was a year of ups, many ups and downs.

### **The ups**

There is significant shift in our fund-raising activities from BBQs to the Fit4Use store and the Op Shop. The staff at both centres continue to rise to the challenge.

They are high visibility community resources.

The extra funds will allow us to change our focus when we consider how to use these resources. We are not alone when it comes to the issues of how to get the greatest, optimal bang for our bucks. The big end of town has its own issues with their increased interest in philanthropy.

One of the strengths / weaknesses of breakfast clubs is - it has to be done in an hour. The BBQs allow us to spend hours together. They are community building events.

We welcomed Anne Heyes into Flemington Rotary.

The Club has been active in the community, our members can be found in a multitude of community activities. The Club has benefited from new members, (in no way pale male and stale) , who are breathing new ideas. Its refreshing and exciting.

There are so many acts,

Guest speakers from many countries.

The bread run, BBQs, representation on many local organizations.

Youth - hosting Ana Medel from Brazil with the Rotary Clubs of Melbourne and Footscray and also sponsoring our very own Maddi Collis to spend a year in Austria.

School Scholarships.

Lesley McCarthy initiated '1000 Stories' – a project to distribute children's books through the Enhanced Child and Maternal Health Nurses. Very targeted. Such a simple idea.

She visited Rotary One in Chicago

Peter Cribb – with his work on the Slides to Sri Lanka. A project to recycle playground equipment.

The Flemington Connects Forum.

Flemington Rotary being visible in our community.

And what a great day that was.



### **The downs.**

Two members passed away this year.

Eugene Odachawski, after his long journey with cancer

Del King also after a long battle but with a surprising crash at the end.

Audrey Seddon, life partner of Rotarian Len Seddon passed away

Vale All are missed but not forgotten.

Thanks to all the members of the Club, who have stepped forward to take on doing.

Thanks to all Board members who supported Flemington Rotary on its Journey.

I am honoured to have been your President for 2017-18. Thank you all.

Sam Nicol

President 2017-2018

Flemington Rotary is leaving foot prints .

**"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." --Henry Ford**

## VALE.

**Eugene Odachowski** was one of the 4 remaining Charter members with PDG Vance Hilton, Ted Frank and Geoff Cawsey and was warmly welcomed at the club's 30th birthday celebrations in April.

A dedicated Rotarian, Eugene was Conference Chair for the District Conference in Canberra during Past District Governor Vance Hilton's year: a very successful conference, requiring an extensive amount of work.

Eugene was President in 1990-1991, Secretary in 1997-1998 and Treasurer 1992-1995, 2006-2014. He was awarded a Paul Harris Fellow in 1994, with a Sapphire in 2013. In 2017 he was awarded the Vance Hilton Community Service Award for his work on the Bread Run

Together with his wife Barbara, Eugene hosted several exchange students, as well as members of the Group Study Exchange team from India in 2012. They participated in all club projects and activities. Most notably, he managed the weekly Bread Run from Bakers Delight in Ascot Vale to the Debney Park residents association every Friday for over 14 years.

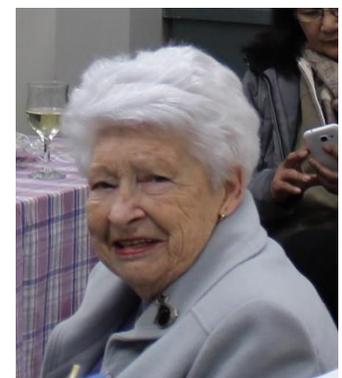
**Del King** joined the Rotary Club of Flemington in December 2014, transferring from the Rotary E-Club. She had been a member of the Group Study Exchange to Rotary District 3030 in India in 2012-2013 under Past District Governor Murray Verso, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Essendon due to her connection through Moonee Ponds Police Station where she was based.

A serving Police Officer, Del worked with Community and Youth Liaison in the Flemington and Moonee Valley areas. She hiked the Kokoda Track twice, and served on the District Youth Exchange team for 4 years, twice leading the RYE Safari throughout central and northern Australia. She and husband Sean opened their homes to exchange students from Brazil, Germany, Finland and the USA, to outbound exchange student Maddi Collis and to many exchange students hosted by cluster clubs.

Del also served on the District Foundation Speaker circuit, participating in forums and panels expounding the benefits of Foundation and the youth portfolio. In 2017, she was selected as the District 9800 Community Services Chair, an experience she grabbed with both hands as she explored the breadth and depth of this portfolio

**Audrey June Seddon** was the life partner of member Len and they were married for 60 years. They had recently received a card from the queen acknowledging their anniversary.

Audrey supported Len at Rotary events for 25 years and was a regular at conferences and social events. She had become frail and was in a nursing home at the time of her passing.



## 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.

During my year as Club Secretary I was fortunate to have the support of a strong Board, President Sam Nicol and PP Allan Bruno.

The Annual Statement to Consumer Affairs Victoria was submitted late due to the delay in receiving audited accounts.

Two New Member Packs were ordered from Rotary Down Under for Anne Heyes and Fabiola Pantea.

**The club also hosted a number of International visitors during the year:**

### August 16<sup>th</sup>

Bishnu Hari Dahal, a member of the Rotary Club of Matribhumi Baluwatar from Nepal under Rotary District 3292

This photograph appeared in the Rotary Club of Matribhumi Baluwatar's annual Report and Club Yearbook.



### September 13<sup>th</sup>

Sharon Crean from the Rotary Club of Nairobi Lavington attended and presented to members on her international project, Beyond Water bringing safe drinking water and sanitation facilities to communities in East Africa, mainly Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.



**May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

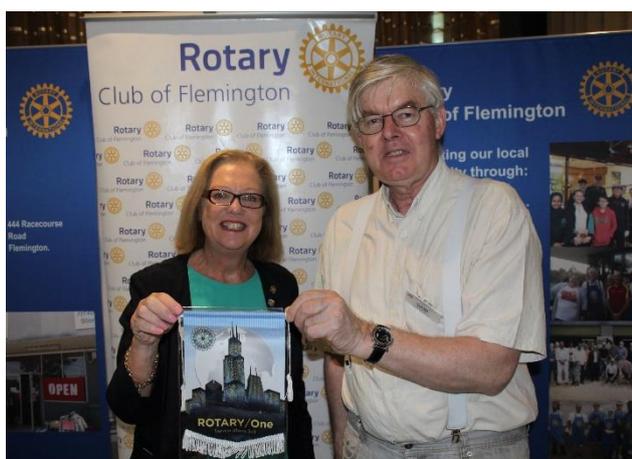
Keerthi de Silva, Past President of the Rotary Club of Colombo Central, and former Assistant Governor, District 3220, Sri Lanka visited the club together with his wife Malkanthi and son Yevindra who is based in Melbourne}.



Also on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Helen Gimbo from Papua New Guinea visited the club. She had met up with us at a BBQ at Bunnings.



I visited Chicago during April and attended a meeting at Rotary One – the Rotary Club of Chicago where I exchanged banners with their Vice President. On my return I presented the banner to President Sam.



## **Treasurer's Report – Peter Donnellan**

I have pleasure presenting the Financial Statements for year ending 30th June, 2018

1 The Rotary Club of Flemington is GST registered.

The ABN is 47 754 561 417

2 All figures quoted in the report are net of GST.

## Club Service - Board

Following feedback from members, several **Club Forums** were held throughout the year. These allowed for greater feedback and input from members and a number of issues were addressed.

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February

Lyn Borghouts, Chris Brock, Eliana Cuppiari and Anne McMahon participated in the **Rotary Leadership Institute** training. This course, held over 2 Sundays provides participants with deeper understanding of Rotary and covers the four pillars of the Rotary Strategic Plan:

### **Growing and Strengthening Clubs**

My Rotary Club & Members, Teams and Leaders

### **Focussing and Increasing Humanitarian Service**

The Foundation and Service Projects

### **Enhancing Public Image and Awareness**

Sharing and Promoting what we do.

Lyn and Chris were presented with their certificates at the District Governor's visit.



The first social event of the year was a breakfast at the home of Eugene and Barbara Odachowski. With Eugene's deteriorating health it was appropriate that we went to him.



The **Blue Moon Social** events continued to be a great success, involving partners and members of the community.

The first Blue Moon of the year was on 31<sup>st</sup> August at **Philhellene Greek Restaurant** in Mount Alexander Road. A large group enjoyed an excellent meal and great conversation.

The second Blue Moon coincided with the club **Christmas Party**, a picnic held on the banks of the Maribyrnong River at Fairbairn Park.



No event was held on January 30<sup>th</sup> 2018.

Wednesday May 30<sup>th</sup>, we ventured to the **Korean BBQ Restaurant** in Victoria Street, Melbourne. A very enjoyable evening where we were joined by our Sri Lankan visitors PAG Keerthi Da Silva, his wife Malkanthi and son Yevindra.



The **Fit4 Use Store First Birthday** was celebrated on 6<sup>th</sup> August.



President Sam and Protection Officer Tony McManus attended the **District's Child Safe Standards** briefing to hear the presentation by Gary Goldsmith as the District Protection Officer and David Whiting as the District Director – Governance discuss changes due to the recent Royal Commission and Rotary International rules changes.

The Club participated in the **Gateway Cluster Domestic Violence Forum** at Taylors Lakes Hotel on 21<sup>st</sup> August.

Members also attended the **Gateway Cluster Foundation** dinner in April with Guest Speaker Lien Trinh on End Trachoma.

Anne Heyes, Lesley McCarthy, Anne McMahon and Beate McManus attended the Women in Rotary International Womens Day Breakfast at Crown.



Allan and Marg Bruno, Anne Heyes, Anne McMahon and Sam Nicol attended the Moonee Valley Council International Womens Day breakfast.



The **Annual Club Presidents Changeover** was held at Ascot House on 28<sup>th</sup> June and was a magnificent evening. We were delighted with the attendance and support

Unfortunately due to a clash with the RI Convention in Toronto, the District Governor, and majority of the DLT were unavailable. PDG Ross Butterworth and Annette, and Assistant Governor Ian Ada and Ann attended.

*In Memoriam readings were made for Eugene Odachowski, Del King and Audrey Seddon. A Memorial candle was lit by Margaret Bruno and Dulcie Heard.*



**A Paul Harris Award** was made to President Sam Nicol.



The **Jim Hosie Trophy** was awarded to Peter Cribb for his work on the Slides into Sri Lanka Project.

Ted Frank and Geoff Cawsey as Charter members made this presentation.

**The Vance Hilton Award** was made to Lorry Rowe for her work in promoting the club, Rotary and dedication to the Fit4 Use Store



A **Community Service** award was made to Geoff Cawsey for taking on the role of the Bread Run following Eugene's passing.

### **Program – Lesley McCarthy**

A strong speakers program operated throughout the year, enriching members knowledge and enabling further relationships with local community groups. The program included:

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July – Simon Peterson** of Pepper Café addressed the club about the changes to workplace laws, penalty rates and the 457 visa.

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July – Assistant Governor Gateway West, Henry Brockman.**



This was Henry's first visit to Flemington. He spoke about himself, his experiences and club and what District Governor Peter Frueh had planned for the year.

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July – Mary & Leo McCartin**

Mary and Leo McCartin are former Rotarians who visited to speak about their quest to re-open the waiting room at Kensington Station, bringing with them Kerrie Gilbert from Kensington Stationers



**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August – Bart Sbeghen**



Bart Sbeghen is the driver behind Dr Canky's – a program operating in primary schools to assist students to access bicycles and help schools get more kids riding to school.

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August – Community Forum**

At this meeting, we had invited a number of community representatives to speak with us about their work, what they aim for in the community, and how we could assist.

Councillor Jim Cusack, Moonee Valley Council

Amy Churchouse, Kensington Good Karma Network

Les Potts, Flemington Association

Also joining us were Adam Gray, President Elect of Rotary West Footscray, James Gunn, VRC, Felicity Matthews, Ascot Vale Pharmacy, Cathy Connop, Farnham Street Neighbourhood Learning Centre and uke Anderson from Flem-Ken News.





**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August – Angelo Pratt**

Angelo is a long time friend of the club and one of Eugene’s Bread Run regulars. He is an international business consultant and travels regularly. He spoke to us on his recent trip to Iran.



**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September = Ludovic Grosjean**

Ludovic is President of the Melbourne City Rotaract Club and is an environmental engineer with OceanX Technologies. He works on research into cleaning and restoring oceans using drone technology.



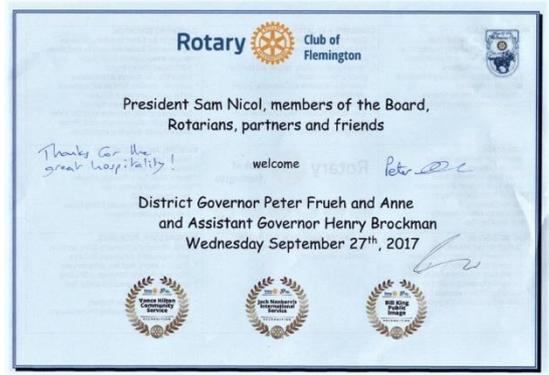
**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September – Sharon Crean, Beyond Water.**

Sharon spoke of her work with Beyond Water in improving water and sanitation to schools and communities in East Africa.

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September was the date for the visit of our District Governor Peter Frueh and Ann.**

There was a full house including Rotary Youth Exchange inbound students Ana Medel and Anna Gadd, and outbound AJ McConville.

Peter spoke about his year, the forthcoming District Conference and the aims for RI President Ian Riseley's year as an Australian RIP.



**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October** was Hat Day and members celebrated with a range of colourful, crazy and co-opted headgear.



**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October – Marnie Marin the Indigo Foundation**

The Indigo foundation works with partner organisations in developing countries: Africa, South East Asia etc to raise funds for education, economic development and water projects.



**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Past District Governor Dr Murray Verso**

Murray spoke to us briefly about the Rotary Foundation and then focussed on the End Trachoma 2020 Project.



**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November – Liz Evans, Westgate Tunnel Authority**

Liz presented the project planning, design elements and research behind the Westgate Tunnel development and how it will impact on residents, current road users and traffic flow throughout Footscray, Docklands and the city.



**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December – Packing Christmas bags for underprivileged children through the Maternal & Child Health Centres and a Club Forum**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December Breakfast at Mama Bear**



**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

Cathy King and Kim Nguyen – RYLA  
Cathy and Kim were excited about the RYLA experience and the program of Challenge by Choice. They were very grateful for the opportunity to participate in the leadership program.



**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February**

**Jessica Lowry, National Youth Science Forum**

As previous participants have reported, NYSF is amazing. Jessica was thrilled with the seminars and visits she attended and very grateful for the opportunity to attend.



**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April Senior Sergeant Ian Jones, Moonee Ponds Police Station**

Ian spoke about current initiatives in policing, the crime issues around Moonee Valley and recruitment options.



**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May James Fitzgerald, Impact Investment Group**

James is a Development Manager and is based at the Younghusband Development in Kensington. He spoke about the development, building changes and residents.



**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, David Robson,  
President Rotary Club of Hoppers Crossing**



**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June Helli Li,  
VUT PHd student on Tourism  
Former visitor through Rotary G'day SA.**



**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June Brooke Rennie and  
Elias Kahsay**  
Elias was the recipient of this year's Sports Scholarship and Brooke is his mentor in athletics. She spoke of his background, training, and talent identification. Due to his background and lack of family, she has become his mentor and accompanies him to training and events.



**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June Les Potts, Flemington Association**

Les reported on recent meetings re the Debney Park Estate redevelopment, Moonee Ponds Creek Masterplan, and also the association's contributions to the discussions re federal electoral boundary reallocations.

**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;

## Community Service – Lyn Borghouts

A great year in Community saw the following projects funded or supported by your Club:

- One Good Ride – support towards the purchase of a TrioBike Taxi to transport the isolated elderly around our suburbs and build relationships in the community.
- Kensington Neighbourhood House Elderly Chinese English language classes. We supported this class to continue to give locals skills and confidence as their families move away.
- To market to market. We started attending the Kensington Market each month. A small selection of op shop items to sell but a great way to be seen and interact with the community.
- We purchased banners and a flag to help promote our activities on the community.
- We provided fabric for the 3031 Boomerang Bag group. Making usable shopping bags from recycled material to reduce the use of plastic bags our community.
- Held the community forum as a precursor to the amazing Festival talked about elsewhere. The forum brought ideas from various areas.







**Community Connects Forum**

Sunday October 29th 1.30-4.30pm  
 Kensington Town Hall, Bellair Street

- Are you a resident or community group with an idea or a project in mind?
- Are you keen to develop the Arts culture in our community?
- Do you want to connect with other groups in the community?
- Do you have or are you seeking expertise or funding for a project?

Join us for inspiring speakers, group discussions and the opportunity to plan and develop a community project. Guest MC Kensington musician Tim Solly.

To arrange a display for your organisation please contact  
 Allan Bruno 0438 557 720

RSVP [eventbrite.com.au/event?id=38693688868](https://eventbrite.com.au/event?id=38693688868)  
 OR [Secretary@RotaryFlemington.org.au](mailto:Secretary@RotaryFlemington.org.au)  
 by 27th October

Flemington Community Bank\* Branch  Bendigo Bank

## Allan Bruno

The two Opportunity Shops continued to be the club's main focus in Community Service throughout the year.

The Flemington Op Shop, managed by Sam Nicol, did a steady trade although income for the year was less than anticipated.

The Werribee Fit4Use store, managed by Lorry Rowe and a team of volunteers, exceeded all expectations in its first year with a solid profit.

\$15,000 was donated back to the Werribee cluster and \$3000 to the volunteers to use as they chose.

The club supported a number of community groups through BBQs during the year and contributed funds raised to those groups.

Bunnings West Footscray included our club in their BBQ roster and a number of events were held, raising almost \$12,000.

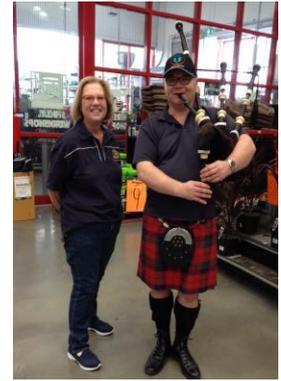
Eugene and Barbara Odachowski and their team of regular volunteers continued the weekly Bread Run from Bakers Delight in Ascot Vale to the Flemington Tenants Association at Debney Park. Angelo Pratt, Geoff Cawsey and friends of Eugene's continue to support this project.

A number of Community Service BBQs were also provided with profits going to those groups:

In recognition of their support to the club in BBQ activities, the Eritrean Australian Humanitarian Association received a donation of \$1000.



Other **Community Service** activities were:  
Bunnings Community Day at West Footscray on August 7<sup>th</sup>.



Flemington Traders Progressive Dinner where several members attended.

The Stroke Foundation Awareness Day at Ascot Vale Pharmacy on September 9<sup>th</sup>.



Flemington Library's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday. This event was held on May 20<sup>th</sup> in the Car Park behind the Library and featured stalls and displays from a number of local organisations, Council and Bendigo Bank.





Members also supported the Kensington Biggest Morning Tea at Kensington Town Hall.

The Club commenced involvement with Kensington neighbourhood House and members attend the monthly meetings. This relationship strengthened following the Community Connects Forum and Anne Heyes, Anne McMahon, Fabiola Pantea and Lyn Borghouts each took on this task.

Donations were also made on behalf of the club to:

Donations in Kind membership	\$4,000
Sponsor racking in the new store.	\$1,500
The Rotary Foundation	\$2,000
Australian Rotary Health	\$1,000
WERM membership	\$2,000
WERN donation	\$ 500

**THE THIRD OBJECT OF ROTARY**

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

## BBQ Program

A very busy schedule of Community Service and Fundraising events was conducted throughout the year, superbly organised and managed by Allan Bruno and Ted Frank. These events raised substantial sums for the club as well as providing an ongoing focus and familiar face in the community.

30 <sup>th</sup> July	Bunnings, Maribyrnong
25 <sup>th</sup> August <sup>h</sup> Club	Flemington Kensington Junior Football Club
10 <sup>th</sup> September	Eid Festival at Debnays Park
12 <sup>th</sup> November	Bunnings, West Footscray
25 <sup>th</sup> November	Ascot Vale Primary School Fete
9 <sup>th</sup> December	Flemington Traders at Pridham Plaza
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Moonee Valley Council Carols in Queens Park
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Flemington Traders at Pridham Plaza
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas 3031
31 <sup>st</sup> January	Mount Alexander College
7 <sup>th</sup> February	Flemington Community Centre
24 <sup>th</sup> February	Donations in Kind Open Day
8 <sup>th</sup> April	Bunnings West Footscray
15 <sup>th</sup> April	Bunnings, Maribyrnong
6 <sup>th</sup> May	Bunnings West Footscray
20 <sup>th</sup> May	Flemington Library's 50 <sup>th</sup> Birthday,



At the Board meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup> 2018, Allan Bruno confirmed his decision to relinquish the role as BBQ Coordinator. As no member has come forward to volunteer, BBQs will be only be held if a convenor can be found and the Board approves.

A motion of thanks was moved, acknowledging Allan for his many years of dedicated service to the club in the role of BBQ Coordinator.

## Youth Service – Del King

The Rotary Club of Flemington again strongly supported Youth programs including:

### Rotary Youth Exchange:

Inbound student Ana Medel from Brazil co-hosted with Footscray.

Outbound student to Germany,

Maddi Collis outbound to Germany (January 2017- 2018)

AJ McConville {January 2018 – April 2018}

**RYLA** – Cathy King and Kim Nguyen were sponsored by our club to attend and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. They returned to speak to the club in February.

**Science Experience** – MAC nominated 4 students to participate and they presented to members with the Science Coordinator in March.

The club also supported Mount Alexander College through a **Breakfast Club**.

Scholarships were donated to local schools for awarding to students at end of year assemblies focussing on the 4 Way Test. Rotarians attended most assemblies to assist in the presentations.

The **1,000 Stories** project grew with over 6,000 picture story books donated to the Maternal and Child Health Centres at Hopetoun, Wingate and Maribyrnong Road Ascot Vale.



The club also supported families identified through the centres for **Christmas Packs**. Together with donated goods from Bunnings, North Melbourne FC, Donations in Kind and members, 50 packs were distributed.



## International Service

The club continued to support the **toilet block and sanitation program in Bangladesh**. The Gateway Cluster led by the Rotary Club of Footscray has operated this project for several years through the liaison with Assistant Governor Ejanul Hague. The club contributed an additional \$850 this year.



## Slides Into Sri Lanka

The container sent to the Sputnik Orphanage in Kurunegala has been unpacked, the playground assembled and groundworks completed.

Peter Cribb attended the District Conference promoting the concept, and also the MAV Conference where he presented to representatives from local councils.

Geelong Council won an environmental award for their role in assisting to recycle the playground to Sri Lanka.

Peter is now working to collect, store and ship playgrounds following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Rotary Club of Columbo.

## Vocational Service – Anne McMahon

### 28th October Wingate Community Centre

Manager Jan Thorpe explained how the Wingate Avenue Community Centre works, is funded and programs they provide.



## Community Connects Forum 29<sup>th</sup> October 2017

After just 5 weeks of planning, organising and communicating the first Rotary Community Connects Forum took place at Kensington Town Hall. A strong crowd participated in the event from across all groups in the Flemington and Kensington areas.

They heard speakers Del King on Rotary, Victorian Multicultural Commissioner Mr Sisay Danku, Paul Harrison from Nelson Alexander on business giving back, Amy Churchouse and Nerina Papanastasiou from the Kensington and Coburg Good Karma Networks and Tim Solly, a Kensington musician and MC for the day.

After these initial information sessions and a brief Q&A, those attending split into 4 groups and discussed and refined project ideas to be explored. Topics included the Arts, Multicultural activities, Businesses in the community and a miscellaneous group. After 30 minutes for engaged and noisy conversations, each group reported back to the whole, identifying their suggestions.

Suggestions were many and varied and these will be refined further at the feedback and debrief meeting. It is anticipated that 3-5 projects will be selected for further exploration. A major benefit of the day was the opportunity for residents and community groups to find like minded people to share their ideas; for people to identify others with the strengths, connections and skills to make these ideas a reality, and the goodwill of all in seeking solutions to issues within the community.

Many thanks to the Community Connects Project team led by Lyn Borghouts, Allan Bruno, Anne Heyes, Anne McMahon, Fabiola Pantea and Lesley McCarthy. Special thanks to Marg Bruno and Dulcie Heard for their assistance with afternoon tea.



Fab, Tim & Nerina

Anne & Edith



Above: some of the audience: Tim, Fab, Anne, Marg & Ana Allan Bruno with Bendigo Bank Manager Nuran Umit



Above: The Q&A Panel MVCC staffer Sebastian in deep conversation over afternoon tea; MVCC Cr's Jim Cusack & Nicole Marshall, Danny Pearson MLA, President Sam Nicol, Allan Bruno

## 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.