

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021**

***The Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington Inc.***

***ABN 47 754 561 417***

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

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

***[facebook.com/rotaryflemington](https://facebook.com/rotaryflemington)***

***[instagram.com/rotaryflemingtonkensington/](https://instagram.com/rotaryflemingtonkensington/)***

***Club 24401  
Chartered 24 March 1987  
District 9800***

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.

## ***2020-2021 Office Bearers and District 9800 representatives***

### **Board**

President	Anne Heyes
Secretary	Lesley McCarthy
Treasurer	Sam Nicol/Edith Chen
President Elect	Shraddha Sharma/Lesley McCarthy

### **Directors**

Club Service	Sam Nicol/Ted Frank
Community Service	Anne Heyes/Edith Chen
International Service	Peter Cribb/Shraddha Sharma
Vocational Service	Anne McMahon
Youth Service	Cody Bettanin/ Lesley McCarthy
Foundation Chair	Lesley McCarthy

### **Office Bearers**

Bulletin	Lesley McCarthy
Investment Committee	Jon Temby/Cody Bettanin
Membership	Board
Onto Conference	Geoff Cawsey
Opportunity Shops	Anne Heyes/Jon Temby
Program	Lesley McCarthy
Protection Officer	Beate McManus
Public Relations & Marketing	Lesley McCarthy
Sergeant at Arms	Josie Magri
Weekly Attendance	Geoff Cawsey/Sam Nicol
BBQ Program	Allan Bruno/Ted Frank
Webmaster	Lesley McCarthy

### **District 9800 Representatives**

Allan Bruno

Anne Heyes

Lesley McCarthy

Donations in Kind Inc. Board Member  
Board of WERN

WERN

WERN, DiK Boards

Environment & Sustainability Committee

Facilitator, Leadership & Development Team

### **Rotary International and District 9800:**

**RI President Holger Knaack**

**District Governor Phillip Archer**

**Assistant Governor Michael Donnelly**



# **The Four Way Test**

of the things we think, say and do

- 1. Is it the TRUTH?**
- 2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?**
- 3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**
- 4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?**

Thank you everyone for your support in what has been a very challenging year. After last year's changeover via ZOOM we thought the worst was over, but here we are again. Despite COVID our club has had an amazing year as we continue to have a positive impact on our local and international communities.

**OP SHOPS**

- The first challenge of 2020 was the interruption to trading at the Op Shops. The resignation of Manager Sam Nicol from the Flemington shop in September led to a reorganisation in line with COVID safe protocols. This took several of us many hundreds of hours as we cleaned, rearranged aisles and shelving, disposed of accumulated clothing, discarded or relocated excess stock and reorganised. Sincere thanks to Edith, Betty, John Heyes, Karolina, Melina and Sandy who provided me with solid support. We also attracted a number of new volunteers who have contributed skills. The shop now is a clean, light filled and more inviting resource for our community and has earned our club's charitable foundation a significant sum this year.

Jason Watts from Flemington Traders/ Nelson Alexander visited the shop and a video was taken showcasing our work. See the video on Facebook

The Werribee Fit4 Use Store has continued its strong work and fundraising through the efforts of Manager Lorry Rowe and her team of volunteers.

During the year, volunteers from Werribee travelled to Flemington for a joint volunteer lunch and to visit the Flemington shop. This was a great success and opportunity to meet and share ideas.

**ART SHOW**

The second challenge was the Art Show which had to be rescheduled from October 2020 to March 2021. With a dedicated and hardworking committee, Anne M, Edith, Betty, John Elston, Lyn, Ellen O'Shaughnessy the show was a huge success attracting a record number of entries and despite COVID, strong sponsorship.

Thank you to the City of Melbourne for their continued support of this show; to Bendigo Bank Nelson Alexander, Kensington Business Network, Hardiman's Hotel and Flemington Traders for their sponsorship.

4 of our sponsored students from Mount Alexander College came along to help as wait staff on the Gala.

We were particularly pleased with support from CoM and MVCC Councillors.

Profit from the Art Show will be donated to the Venny – providing support to children and teenagers living in the Kensington area, many of whom are from disadvantaged and refugee backgrounds without gardens and play spaces to learn and play.

**RORP**

Challenge 3 was how to continue the Rotary Overseas Recycled Playgrounds project in lockdown and with the COVID challenge in Sri Lanka. Many councils ceased playground works and collecting, transporting and shipping was problematic. Thanks to support from Rotarians in other districts, and the wonderful industry people, containers 5 & 6 were shipped to Sri Lanka and 2 containers were shipped to Nepal. RORP has now moved to a multi district management with the lead being taken by Rotary Nunawading.

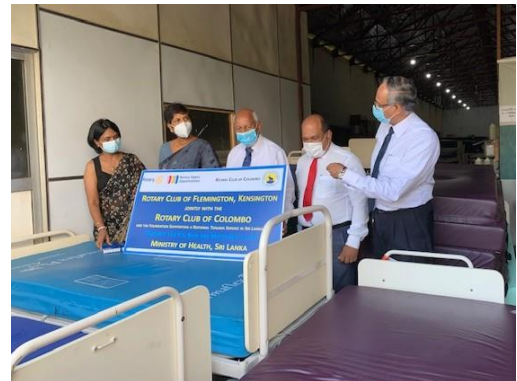
RORP could not have started or progressed without the inspirational and dedicated efforts of a few, namely Peter Cribb, Lyn Borghouts, Shraddha Sharma and Sam Nicol.



In March this year I presented Shraddha with a Paul Harris Award in recognition of her work. This was done early as she has travelled to Nepal to visit family.

## INTERNATIONAL

Our friends at Rotary Colombo sought our help too with a huge need for hospital beds for COVID. Through the truly amazing people at Donations in Kind, 2 containers were shipped in a very short timeframe and are now being put to good use in rural hospitals. We are a Sister Club with the Rotary Club of Colombo and PDG Senake Amerasinghe and DGE Pubuda De Zosa are very grateful for our assistance.



## YOUTH

The club's focus on youth programs continued with sponsorship of **Salma Salaat** from MAC to attend National Youth Science Forum online. Salma gave us a report at our February meeting, supported by science teacher Man Lam. She also came along to the art show and helped as a waitress.

Jules Borghouts was able to participate in Rotary Youth Leadership Award {RYLA} online and Zoe, a former participant was invited back as a leader.



The Del King Scholarship at MAC was awarded to **Inas Adil Ahmed** and the Eugene O. Scholarship at Kensington Community HS was awarded to **Annaliese Fidei**.

We also provided scholarships to year 6 students at Ascot Vale West, Debney Meadows and St Brendan's primary schools and to a Year 12 student at Ascot Vale Special School.

## **POLIO**

In October, several members participated in Walk for Polio, walking over 100km each and raising \$1502. [Flemington Kensington Walk for Polio | Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington \(rotaryflemington.org.au\)](https://www.rotaryflemington.org.au)

## **COMMUNITY**

Our support of local community continued and we were able to assist with the lockdown of the Debney estate, through Flemington Traders and for Gregory Lodge residents.

The VRC sought our help to distribute roses after the Spring Racing Carnival and Anne, Dulcie, Karolina, Lesley, Lyn's friend, Betty and Jessica spent 3 days sorting, bundling and then delivering roses to a number of local organisations as a 'thank you'.

[Roses to say Thank You | Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington \(rotaryflemington.org.au\)](https://www.rotaryflemington.org.au)



We also provided a donation to assist Christ Church Ascot Vale to purchase refrigeration for their food donation program.

Edith continued her work with Kensington Neighbourhood House and their support of community with food, technology and mental health.

## **MEETINGS**

Our fortnightly meetings were a mixture of ZOOM and face to face as COVID allowed. In November, we honoured 2 members with Life Membership for their long term service and dedication to the club: Charter Member Ted Frank and PP Allan Bruno.

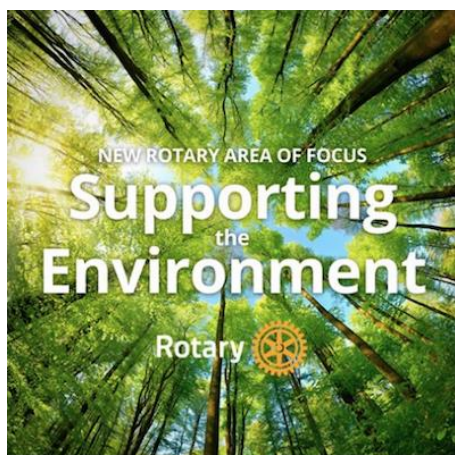
Due to food handling restrictions we had to move from Crown Street. Fresh Prince Café in Kensington brought us an alternative until the weather became too cold when we renegotiated with Quest. We had one meeting back there when COVID struck again.

## **THE ROTARY CLUB OF FLEMINGTON KENSINGTON FOUNDATION**

This foundation was established in 2019 with the aim of receiving profits from the 2 Op Shops as a registered ACNC charity. The foundation disburses funds in accordance with ACNC regulations and in 2020-2021 will donate in excess of \$15000 to a number of organisations.



## THE ENVIRONMENT



The announcement of the environment saw Lesley and Jon join ESRAG and begin work on a new project with Moonee Valley Council for Rotary100 celebrations. This culminated on 2 May with a tree planting, habitat, wildlife and pollination planting corridor along the banks of the Maribyrnong River.

Over 500 trees, groundcovers, understorey plants and habitat were planted in just 3 hours by a large group comprising Rotarians, Moonee Valley conservation members and volunteers from the Indian community. We were assisted by Keilor East Rotary who cooked a BBQ lunch for volunteers.



I would like to thank the board: Lesley, Edith, Lyn, Betty, Shradd, Jon and Sam for their work throughout the year. Particular thanks to Edith who took over as treasurer after Sam's resignation – a steep learning curve.

To my husband John, thank you for everything you have been a strong, encouraging and logical right arm and have supported me through every day.

In a most unusual and challenging year we have survived and thrived. We have connected with community, helped those less fortunate and developed relationships with other organisations, people businesses.

Rotary opens opportunities – you just need to take a risk and reach out!

Thank you

Anne – Centenary President

## 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 Statement to Consumer Affairs Victoria was submitted in November.

The club has the following registrations:



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.



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



RC Flemington Kensington Foundation is a registered charity.  
ABN 75 591 148 794

Deductible Gift Recipient endorsement was approved on 24 October 2019.



## **Treasurer's Report - Edith Chen**

Edith took over from Sam Nicol in October following Sam's resignation.

The Rotary Club of Flemington is GST registered. The ABN is 47 754 561 417  
All figures quoted in the report are net of GST.

All invoices were forwarded to signatories for verification prior to payment due to inability to meet in person. Signatories on Club, Op Shop and Fit4 Use were Anne, Edith and Lesley.

Due to lack of a second signatory to the Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington Foundation Account, payments for several projects were made from the Op Shop and Fit4 Use Store. Records were retained and at the end of the financial year, the accounting was rectified to be an accurate reflection of expenditure. Signatories to all accounts have now been corrected.

Annual scholarships were awarded to students at Mount Alexander College and Kensington Community High School, Ascot Vale Special School, Ascot Vale West Primary and St Brendans. Offers of scholarships to Debney Meadows, Holy Rosary, Kensington Primary and St Marys were not taken up.

### **Investments:**

Innovayt	\$150,000
Sandhurst Bendigo Bank Account	\$86,820

The financial statements are to be read with the explanations. Several project areas received or spent monies in previous financial years, so a clean breakdown is not possible in this financial year. These are the Art Show which received a grant in a prior year and paid Gallery247 in 2018-19; Foundation grants and scholarships, and RORP where income and container costs cross over financial years.

The club is in a strong financial position despite the reduction of income from BBQs and the Op Shops due to COVID.

Area	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Club	7733.44	7920.79	187.35
Op Shop	59370.99	34537.94	24833.05
Fit4 Use	49258.97	40413.63	8844.84
RORP	14049.50	12882.30	1167.20
Art Show	46049.17	31901.95	14147.72

### **Investment Committee – Cody Bettanin**

Following a difficult year with COVID, our investments have regained what was lost.

Nick Reilly, Investment Manager with Inovayt has provided quarterly reports to the Board.  
Our current balance is \$150,000.

He anticipates a stronger growth in the 2021-2022 year.

## 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 deductible through our DGR status.

Despite the restrictions to trading through lockdowns necessitated by COVID both shops made good profits which were then directed to a number of charities and deserving people and organisations.

Nett income from the Op Shop and the Fit4 Use Store was = \$26,000

We received a donation from Kensington Neighbourhood House = \$1300

A donation from the BEAP Foundation of \$3500 towards shipping of hospital beds to Sri Lanka.

Total income: \$19,900

### Payments were made to:

The Australian Rotary Foundation	\$2500	
Australian Rotary Health	\$1000	
Donations in Kind	\$5000	
WERN	\$1100	
The Oak Tree Foundation	\$1500	
Kensington Junior Soccer Club	\$3000	
Farnham Street Neighbourhood Centre	\$3000	
Christ Church Ascot Vale	\$800	
True Manila	\$5310	
Sanitiser to Timor Leste	\$1000	
Hospital Beds to Sri Lanka	\$4215	
Rotary 100 Project	\$1918	\$30,243

### Student Scholarships

NYSF	\$1900	
RYLA	\$150	
Del King Award	\$1500	
Eugene O	\$1000	
ASVSS	\$200	
ASVWPS	\$200	\$4950

## THE FIRST OBJECT OF ROTARY

The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service.

### Club Service

As is now accepted, several **Club Forums** were held allowing fellowship, feedback and discussion of projects and events.

**Bulletins** were provided fortnightly using the ClubRunner element.

### 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.

Meetings continued in a combination of ZOOM and face to face as possible with meetings being held at a number of venues as COVID and the weather allowed. We met at Crown Street Stables, Mamma Bears, Quest, The Fresh Prince and ZOOM.

Mad Hat Day was a ZOOM affair.



At the final meeting of 2020, President Anne Heyes presented Life Memberships to Charter Member Ted Frank and 30+ member Allan Bruno.



This was in recognition for their years of dedicated service to Rotary, the club and the community.

Members celebrated the centenary of Rotary in Australia with a birthday cake at our April meeting. President Anne cut the cake with a flourish and everyone enjoyed a taste.

### **District Conference**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the planned District Conference was cancelled.

### **District Assembly**

Due to COVID-19, the District Assembly was held At Essendon Fields with a limited face to face attendance supported by ZOOM. President Anne and Lesley promoted RORP.



## **2 social events were held for the Op Shop volunteers:**

During Volunteer Recognition Week in May, all volunteers were presented with Certificates of Recognition and were invited to lunch with the Managers and Rotarians at Hardimans Hotel. This was a very successful day and the Fit4 Use volunteers enjoyed some shopping at Flemington prior.

The volunteers were also invited to a Christmas lunch at Hardimans and each volunteer was presented with a Rotary Christmas Cake or Plum Pudding and thanked for their service.

Club members celebrated the end of the year with a Christmas function at Hardimans.

**2 Blue Moon Social** events were held at Hardimans Hotel and continued to be a great success, involving partners and members of the community.

Due to COVID-19, the **Annual Club Presidents Changeover** was held via ZOOM.

Guests were: Kathy Hall, Rotary Caroline Springs, Tony Laycock, Assistant Governor RC Canterbury, Michael Donnelly, Assistant Governor RC Keilor East, Paul and Lea Heyes.

## **Paul Harris Awards were presented to:**

Lyn Borghouts 1 sapphire, Edith Chen, Peter Cribb 3 sapphires, Betty Kitchener, Shraddha Sharma





The **Jim Hosie Trophy** was awarded to John Heyes for his work in the Op Shop and at the Art Show.



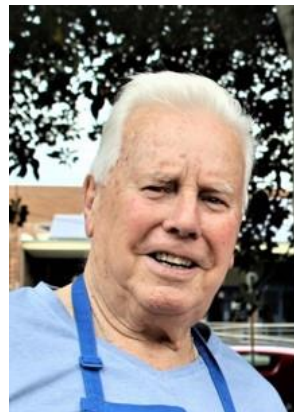
The **Vance Hilton Award** was made to Sandy Belcher for her work at the Art Show.



2 Life Membership awards were announced:

**Geoff Cawsey:** Charter Member 1987, Past President 1988-1989: 2001-2002, James Hosie Awardee, Paul Harris Fellow Sapphires. BBQ and Onto Conference Champion.

**Len Seddon:** 30+ year member, James Hosie Awardee, Paul Harris Fellow, BBQ, Op Shop and Club Service Champion.



District Governor Dale Hoy attended and offered his congratulations to members on the work done over the last year.

**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;

### **Program – Lesley McCarthy**

The speakers program operated throughout the year, despite limitations of venues; enriching members knowledge and enabling further relationships with local community groups. The program included:

Assistant Governor Michael Donnelly.  
David Dippie, DiK  
Danni van den Borch from the Venny  
Sheila Byard, Kensington History  
Betty Kitchener, Mental Health First Aid  
Catherine Johnson, Mental Health research in schools  
Susie Cole, RIMERN Yvonne Farquharson, Filter Your Life

It has been very difficult to obtain speakers with the meeting time and our lack of attendees to guarantee an audience.

### **Community Service – Anne Heyes/ Edith Chen**

Anne and Edith continued their involvement in the Kensington Community Network attending monthly meetings and providing communication on events across Kensington and Flemington.

Through their involvement, a donation was made to Christ Church Ascot Vale to purchase refrigeration equipment for their food van.

Edith also continued her involvement with a number of local senior and multicultural groups. Through Edith's activity, the club made a donation to the Victorian Women's Parliament, Your Vote Your Voice initiative honouring Olga Zakharov, a long ter Kensington resident and member of parliament.

### **THE THIRD OBJECT OF ROTARY**

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

The two Opportunity Shops continued to be the club's main focus in Community Service throughout the year. Retail over the past 12 months has been very difficult especially with the restrictions imposed due to COVID-19.

#### **Fit4Use Store**

The Werribee Store had a decline in gross sales; however this was not unexpected.

The Shop is ably managed by Lorry Rowe, with a wonderful band of volunteers. The past 12 months has seen the introduction of many new volunteers and this should help the Shop going forward.

#### **Flemington Opportunity Shop**

The Flemington store faced similar challenges to that of Werribee.

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.

Long time manager Sam Nicol resigned in October and management devolved to the Board, ably led by Anne Heyes, Edith Chen and Betty Kitchener with strong support from John Heyes, Carolina Svetikova.

A new manager, Melina Caccetta commenced in May 2021 and immediately made a strong impact. Volunteer numbers are up and with the approval from Services Australia of the shop's authority to accept Centrelink volunteers has enabled a bigger group.

Our Authority Number is: **690917**

Despite COVID lockdowns, both shops made good profits.

Note: rent is much higher at Werribee. Manager fees were not paid from Flemington from November to April. Insurance is higher at Flemington.

## Youth Service - Cody Bettanin, Lesley McCarthy

The Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington strongly supported Youth programs again this year.



### Rotary Youth Leadership Award: RYLA

Jules Borghouts attended RYLA in an online format this year due to COVID. Former participant Zoe Borghouts was selected to participate as a leader.



National Youth  
Science Forum

**National Youth Science Forum** – We had Salma Salaat from Mount Alexander College attend a virtual event.

**Scholarships** were donated to local schools for awarding to students at end of year assemblies with criteria of Civics & Citizenship and family financial need.

**The Del King Award** was presented to Inas Adil Ahmed at the virtual MAC Awards night in December.



**The Eugene O. award** was again presented at the Kensington Community High School awards event and was again an online ceremony. Recipients were Annaliese Fidei and Ari Zelman.

International Women's Day was celebrated by Moonee Valley Council at The Clocktower this year.

The **1,000 Stories** project grew with another 3,000 picture story books donated to the Maternal and Child Health Centres at Hopetoun, Wingate and Maribyrnong Road Ascot Vale.



Former sponsored students helping at the Art Show.

## International Service - Peter Cribb/Shraddha Sharma

**Rotary Overseas Recycled Playgrounds** continued to grow at a phenomenal rate. In this Rotary year however due to lack of members able to assist, the decision was made to transfer management to District 9780 where a multi district approach now handles the administration ably led by Bob Allardice from Rotary Nunawading.

Peter Cribb, Sam Nicol, Lyn Borghouts and Shraddha Sharma continued to support the team with organisation, collections and container loading.

The 2 containers destined for Nepal, which were delayed by COVID restrictions finally shipped and will arrive in Kathmandu in August 2021.

The 100<sup>th</sup> container is due to ship in September.



With assistance from the BEAP Foundation, 2 containers of hospital beds were shipped to Sri Lanka to aid rural hospitals dealing with COVID.



The Foundation also donated \$100 towards shipping of sanitiser and PPE to Timor Leste during COVID.



## 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.

### Art Show - **CONNECT → CREATE → CELEBRATE**

The main focus for this year was the Flemington Kensington Art Show at Kensington Town Hall.

Grant funding was provided by the City of Melbourne which covered the hire costs of KTH.

Additional sponsorship was provided by Nelson Alexander, the Bendigo Bank, Flemington Traders, Kensington Business Network and Hardiman's Hotel.

Acknowledgements must be given to Anne & John Heyes, Anne McMahon, John Elston, Betty Kitchener, Sandy Belcher, Jenny Gallivan, and Edith Chen for their outstanding efforts.

4 of our scholarship and NYSF students assisted with the catering/waiting: Salma, Eloise, Alex and Inas from MAC.

This event involved every member of the club, partners, family and friends as well as community volunteers. An estimated 10,000 hours was required.



## ROTARY IN THE NEWS

We continued to have good cover in Flem Ken News published quarterly and in 2021 in the Inner North West City News published monthly. This is a good opportunity to share stories and have some coverage of our op Shop, activities and areas of focus.

### What an inspirational and rewarding morning we had on the banks of the Maribyrnong River in Ascot Vale this week.

Working with Moonee Valley Council, we were able to plant 100 trees and 380 groundcover plants sourced from the Victorian Indigenous Nursery Co-Op in Fairfield. Council also planted 4 River Red Gums and 6 Banksia on our behalf - 1.5 metre tall trees to give some structure and support for the new plantation. 3 large blue mudstone rocks were sourced from TransRock in Wonga Park and will form both a barrier and seating. A plaque commemorating the planting is placed on the front rock.



Moonee Valley Council Conservation Officer Milly Burke has been outstanding in her support and encouragement for this project and was a joy to work with, as were her crew Aron, Charlie and Ruth today. Councillors Katrina Hodgson and Rose Iser participated in the planting and formally opened the Rotary Flemington Kensington Forest - a wildlife corridor and pollination source for wildlife travelling along the river. Councillor Samantha Byrne also attended.

This project is our club's Rotary 100 Project celebrating 100 years of Rotary in Australia and we were delighted with the support from the Moonee Valley Conservation group and the Indian Environment group who assisted us today. Working together with partners has increased and enhanced the impact of this work and led to the furthering of relationships for the next event. [rotaryflemington.org.au](http://rotaryflemington.org.au)

To learn more about Rotary and Environment as the new Area of Focus, go to [esraganzpi.org](http://esraganzpi.org)

## What is Rotary, you ask?

*Flemington Kensington Rotary has been working for the local community for more than 30 years.*

But what is Rotary you ask? We are not a clothesline or an engine, and not a rotunda. And we don't just cook sausages at Bunnings either!

Rotary is a service organisation, which raises funds to help people in communities locally and across the world. We are ordinary people who want to give back and help others.

You may have heard about our work with the Bill Gates Foundation to end polio, which is now almost unheard of except in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Or how we enable Youth Exchange sending year 11 students to live in another country for 12 months, or perhaps the work we do with scholarships for local schools.

Flemington Kensington Rotary does all these things and more.

Our main income comes from the Op Shop we run at 444 Racecourse Rd in Flemington, where a team of volunteers help by receiving, sorting and selling donated clothing, books, toys, household goods and bric-a-brac. We are much loved by collectors, young people in search of a special item of clothing, and people setting up a new home. We are also there for a chat!

With the announcement that supporting the environment is a new priority for Rotary, we have partnered with Moonee Valley Council and are developing a wildlife habitat and pollinator corridor along the Maribyrnong River. We have already planted more than 500 trees, groundcover and understory plants near Fairbairn Park with more to come.

In recent years we have planted gardens at Debney Meadows and Ascot Vale West Primary Schools, helping students learn about where fruit and vegies come from and attracting birds and insects for pollination.



Our members have collected and helped to send 60-plus unwanted council playgrounds to children in Asia and Africa, bringing joy to them and saving landfill.

The Art Shows allow people to come together to celebrate and connect with others and appreciate the skills and talents of our local artists.

So, as you can see, we have many projects and activities and welcome those who would like to "give back". We provide networking, connection, learning and friendship to everyone. Get in touch or visit our website to see the range of our work.

Rotary – we are people of action •

For more information visit:  
[rotaryflemington.org.au](http://rotaryflemington.org.au) or email  
[info@rotaryflemington.org.au](mailto:info@rotaryflemington.org.au)





## Introducing Mel - the new Rotary Op Shop Manager -

Melina Caccetta commenced as the manager of the Rotary Op Shop at 444 Racecourse Road in May and has settled in well despite COVID restrictions. She is well known to many residents and business owners, she is a local having lived in Kensington all her life.



She had her own arts and craft store on Macaulay Road and was the inspiration behind the Kensington Traders Association. She also ran the Kensington Festival in 1998 and worked in every coffee shop back in the 1990's. Mel is passionate about community and worked with young women in the housing estate as a mentor and in a 'big sister' capacity. She also participated in many classes and events at Kensington Neighbourhood House.

9 years ago she started the Kensington Market at Kensington Town Hall which sadly is in limbo due to COVID.

Mel has many ideas to improve the Op Shop and has initiated Saturday Repair Hub sessions and opened an eBay shop for larger and more unique and valuable items. She has also set up a FaceBook page to keep people up to date on what is happening.

New volunteers are always welcomed and will join a friendly, dedicated team offering wonderful items and a friendly smile. Call in and say hi!

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## INTRODUCING RIMERN

RIMERN is the Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network established just this past few months. Flemington Kensington Rotary has joined with the Rotary Clubs of Prahran, Albert Park, Central Melbourne, Carlton, North Melbourne, Balwyn, Camberwell and Canterbury to establish the organisation.



Based at 32-34 Lincoln Street, East Brunswick, this charity run by several Rotary Clubs within the inner area of Melbourne provides free household goods to people experiencing loss and trauma.

They may have suffered from a range of crises, including long term illness, unemployment, domestic violence or homelessness, refugee displacement, incarceration or other situations of hardship, such as fire or flood.

The premise is that followed by current groups – Eastern Relief Network in Mitcham and Western Emergency Relief Network in Melton.

Through donations from businesses, real estate agencies and everyday people, they are able to offer basic household furniture, bedding, manchester and kitchen goods.

Referrals are accepted from accredited social service organisations who support those needing aid with the process.

Agencies working in the of Melbourne, south Moonee Valley, Port Phillip, Darebin, east Moreland, south Banyule and northern Bayside and Yarra are invited to apply for accreditation and to access resources. Access the application form at [rotaryflemington.org.au](http://rotaryflemington.org.au)

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# Rotary is for everyone



*One of the great strengths of Rotary is the networking and connections it can facilitate.*



Through our members, clubs and activities, Rotary connects people in business, education, service and government and is able to join people from all walks of life and thus strengthen our ability to make a difference.

This was brought home to many members of Flemington Kensington Rotary at a recent meeting when we were joined by some of our Rotary alumni. We chatted with Riley from Texas who had come to Melbourne as a 16-year-old exchange student in 2014 and is now just starting her law career – here in Melbourne.

She was a delightful young lady who spent her year staying with four Rotary families, attending school and exploring Victoria and Australia before heading back to the USA.

Then there was Yvonne who in 1977 left Ballina in NSW and travelled by ship to Cape Town in South Africa for an unforgettable year and experience living through apartheid. It was an incredible learning journey that had a profound impact on her life choices.

Zoe and Jules are two young people who participated in the youth leadership program and

who learnt about their own leadership skills and abilities, gained resilience, made connections and grew in confidence.

There are many other youth leadership and development programs provided by Rotary clubs around the world. Our club strongly supports the National Youth Science Forum where Year 12 students have the opportunity to participate in a 12-day science immersion program at a major university meeting, and being involved in science events, lectures and visits which impact on their further studies and career options.

During the past eight years our club has sponsored 11 students from locals schools who have gone on to study science in fields as diverse as genetics, aerospace, medicine, international law, nursing, zoology and environmental science.


Rotary is not just for businesspeople, adults or men. Rotary is for everyone who wants to make a difference in the world in some way and to give back. If you would like to join with us, make a call, send an email or when COVID restrictions lift, call in to our Op Shop at 444 Racecourse Rd, Flemington •

**For more information:**

[rotaryflemington.org.au](http://rotaryflemington.org.au) or email [info@rotaryflemington.org.au](mailto:info@rotaryflemington.org.au)



Since 2018 we have:

<p><b>Promoting Peace</b>          Club and individual contributions to The Rotary Foundation, supporting Peace Scholars to attend Global Peace Education Programs.</p> <p>The club donates to Bolton Clarke's Homeless Persons program.</p> <p>The Intergenerational Multicultural Choir allowed participants from varied backgrounds to come together to sing.</p>	<p><b>Fighting Disease</b>          Donated to Australian Rotary Health.          Raised funds for the Stroke Foundation.          Participated in Lift the Lid/Mad Hat Day to raise funds for mental health research.          Fundraised for research into Parkinson's Disease.          Supported the Kensington Youth Mental Health Program.          Donated towards a COVID Container of sanitiser and PPE to Timor Leste.</p>	<p><b>Clean water, sanitation &amp; hygiene</b>          Contributed towards funding for a toilet block in a school in Kenya.</p> <p>Helped fund the building of toilets and water supplies to rural schools in Bangladesh.</p> <p>Donated to Beyond Water, bringing clean water and sanitation to communities and schools in East Africa.</p>
<p><b>Ending Polio forever</b>          Donated to End Polio Now every year.          Participated in a 100km Walk for Polio and raised funds.          Provided an information and promotion booth at the Kensington Festival on Polio.</p> 	<p><b>Rotary's 7 Areas of Focus</b></p> 	<p><b>Saving mothers and children</b>          Assisted with completing forms for mothers with poor literacy skills at Wingate Avenue Maternal &amp; Child Health Centre.</p> <p>The 2 Opportunity shops provide access to good quality clothing and household goods at low cost.</p> <p>We are members of the Western Emergency Relief Network which provides free household goods to families in need.</p> <p>Shipped 2 containers of hospital beds to Sri Lanka.</p> <p>Provided bags of personal items for Share the Dignity.</p> <p>Supplied Christmas packs to disadvantaged mothers and children through Wingate Avenue.</p> <p>Donated to Wheelchairs for Kids Vietnam.</p>
<p><b>Protecting the environment</b>          The club is a member of Donations in Kind, recycling quality hospital, medical, educational and general equipment, clothing, computers and bicycles to disadvantaged countries.</p> <p>We have established 2 Opportunity Shops to reduce, reuse and recycle unwanted items.</p> <p>Established the Rotary Overseas Recycled Playgrounds Project collecting unwanted playgrounds from councils and schools and shipping them overseas to disadvantaged countries, saving landfill and delivering joy.</p> <p>Created an edible and sustainable garden for students at Debney Meadows Primary School.</p> <p>Created a sensory garden for students at Ascot Vale West Primary School.</p> <p>Planted 110 trees and 380 groundcover and understorey plants to develop an urban forest and extend the wildlife and pollination corridor along the Maribyrnong River.</p>	<p><b>Growing local economies</b>          Funded the purchase of industrial sewing machines for disadvantaged women in Negombo, Sri Lanka.</p> <p>We have run 3 Art Shows which showcase, celebrate and connect artists and buyers.</p> <p>The club is a member of the Flemington Traders group and supports initiatives to grow business.</p> <p>We are a member of the Kensington Business Network.</p> <p>Sponsors who support the club are promoted in our newsletter, on the website and on social media posts.</p> <p>Participated in the monthly Kensington Market.</p>	<p><b>Supporting education</b>          Funding students to attend the National Youth Science Forum each year.          Funding a team of students to participate in debating through Model United Nations.          Scholarships to year 6 students at 6 local primary schools.          Established the Del King Award to fund a student at Mount Alexander College for the VCE years.          Established a scholarship to support students in Year 10 at Kensington Community High School to continue into VCE.          Provided fiction books to students at Debney Meadows Primary School.          Developed the 1,000 Stories Literacy Project supplying picture story books to Maternal &amp; Child Health Nurses at Wingate Avenue and Hopetoun Centres for disadvantaged children.          Provided funding to The Venny to establish programs for disadvantaged children.          Funded tertiary students to participate in Rotary Youth Leadership development programs.          Participated in Careers Day seminars at MAC.          Funded Year 10 students to attend the Science Experience.          Nominated students from Ascot Vale Special School for the Shine On Awards.</p> <p>We have shipped 6 containers of playground equipment to Sri Lanka; 2 containers of playgrounds to Nepal, and playgrounds to Timor Leste and Tanzania.</p>

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves. We provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional and community leaders.