



## ESsential News November 2021

### E&S Committee:

Co Chairs: David Dippie, RC Keilor East  
[solatube@bigpond.com](mailto:solatube@bigpond.com)  
Donna Martin, RC Bacchus Marsh  
[Donna@balancedfinancial.com.au](mailto:Donna@balancedfinancial.com.au)

Peter Berg, RC Melbourne  
[pberg8@bigpond.net.au](mailto:pberg8@bigpond.net.au)

Lesley McCarthy, RC Flemington  
Kensington [Lillico2009@gmail.com](mailto:Lillico2009@gmail.com)

Rob Anderson, RC Canterbury

Fabienne Nichola, RC Camberwell  
Ted Waghorne, RC Canterbury

### Dates for your calendar:

#### Saving the Oceans

Rotary Club of Sydney's Climate  
Action Group.

Monday 8 November 5.30-6.30pm EDT  
[Ambaree Majumber—co chair ESRAG](#)  
[Plant Rich Diet Taskforce](#)

#### Climate & Peace Forum

**Tuesday 16 November at 6pm AEST**  
<https://climateandpeace.com.au>  
Drive to the Future—Electric Vehicles  
and Transportation

#### District E&S Action meeting

Thursday 25 November 2021 at 6.00pm  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82893124145>

#### ESRAG ANZPI Chapter Meeting

Thursday 25 November 2021 at 7.30pm  
COP26 report and panel discussion

31 October—12 November 2021

**UN Climate Change Conference**  
<https://UKCOP26>

20th November  
ESRAG Oceania COP26 Student  
Writing Competition closes.

### Join ESRAG:

[https://www.esrag.org/  
membership-form](https://www.esrag.org/membership-form)

US\$30 per year or  
US\$125 for 5 years.  
Just US\$15 per year for ages 17-25.

From our District Co Chairs:

Protecting the Environment will change the way that Rotary operates. The environment does not recognize Rotary Boundaries and structures. We will need to learn to work together and form partnerships to achieve maximum results.



Our first District Partnership is between the International and Environmental Sustainability Committees and Donations in Kind to ship a container overseas.



We are confident that the Environmental Sustainability Committee will partner with Community to promote our local recycling projects like our Op-Shops, Recycled Sound, RIMERN and WERN. We will also work towards Youth, Donations in Kind and this Committee to work on recycling surplus reusable school items.

Clubs will also partner in a different way to support Environmental Communities which will be defined by the local community. They will extend beyond Cluster and District boundaries. Clubs will begin to get involved in more partnerships supporting well managed existing project.

Most of us hate change, but we should embrace the opportunities to work with others as we will achieve much more that operating in isolation.

David

### End of Year School Recycling Project

With schools reopening and COVID19 restrictions easing it's the perfect time to contact your local schools and arrange to help to recycle and repurpose surplus items. At the end of the year many students have items they will not require the following year. Your Club can help the school to recycle the reusable item, help to divert them from landfill and to provide much needed material for disadvantaged school in developing countries.

This is a very easy no cost project. Contact your local schools, provide them with information on the project and encourage them to support this initiative. At the end of the school year collect the goods and get them to the Donation In Kind Store. Often all of the donation will fit in 1-2 cars.

Many Clubs are looking for a project and it does not get much easier than this.

If delivering the items to your DIK Store is a problem or for more further information contact [manage@rotarydik.org](mailto:manage@rotarydik.org)



## Environmental People of Action Communities—4th Thursday at 6pm via [ZOOM](#)

It became obvious at our first “Environmental People of Action Meeting” that Rotarians, Clubs and Districts need to think and act differently when it comes to the environment. The environment does not recognize Rotary boundaries. The Community does not recognize Rotary Boundaries.

**Rotary has a different role in this area.** We did not invent Protecting the Environment. Many individuals and organizations are already committed to this cause and have been taking action for many years. We need to be humble and to accept that for some time our role is to be followers and achieve our environmental goals by helping them to achieve theirs. We need to become friends of these groups. In time we will identify the environmental problems that are not being addressed, identify Rotary solutions and take action. There will be several types of Environmental Communities in every Club territory. We encourage all Members and Clubs to think about and identify the different communities.

**Geographical Area:** This could be the beach, a river, a mountain. An example is the Yarra River. The Yarra Riverkeepers and many smaller groups are already taking action to protect the river. Every Rotary Club with a link to the river and its tributaries could become supporters and take action in some way. Over time Rotary Friends of the Yarra may emerge and this could include many clubs from different Districts. Peter Berg from Rotary Melbourne is working on the [Melbourne Pollinator Corridor](#), based on Emma Cutting's [Heart Gardening Project](#) to develop nature strip gardens from Westgate Park to the Royal Botanic Gardens. This will include Rotary Southbank, Central Melbourne, Port Phillip, South Melbourne and Flemington Kensington.



**Geographical Local:** This will often be associated with a council area. Most councils are very strong on environmental sustainability and are often leading the way. Many clubs are already working with their local councils and environmental groups on projects.

Members of Keilor East Rotary helped the Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley and Parks Victoria removing tree guards and weeds at the Lily St Wetlands Essendon. Its much easier to support an existing project than to start a new one.

Does your club have a project/activity in your area which you could promote?



**Flora:** People plant species for different reasons. It could be endangered species, restoration caused by erosion or bushfires, a green canopy to reduce summer temperatures in cities, pollinator pathways and wild life corridors. Examples are the bushfire regeneration tree planting projects being done by Bacchus Marsh, Bendigo South and Essendon.

**Fauna:** Endangered species, feral animal removal, reintroduction of native species.

[Rotarians4 Bees](#) is a great example. [Rotary Essendon's 100 Bee Hives project](#) is another excellent example.

**Rubbish elimination and removal:** Eliminating plastic bags and wrapping, community and road clean-ups.

**Recycling and Repurposing:** We are leading the way in some areas, but the individual groups work in isolation. We need to unite them under one banner and help them to cross promote.

[Donations in Kind](#), [WERN](#), [RIMERN](#). Rotary Op Shops at Kew, Flemington.

WERN and RIMERN were featured at the recent Morning Tea with the DG and are available on the District Learning Centre to view. [rotarydistrict9800.org.au](http://rotarydistrict9800.org.au)

**Rotary needs to become part of these communities.**

We have a unique skill set and potentially 1.2 million people to help the cause. They have shovel ready projects that will allow us to take instant action. We will meet inspiring people and share with them. We also recognise that when people who share the same values work on successful projects, they will want to do more. This is often the first step in becoming a Rotarian.

What is your community?

## Australia's Commitment to becoming Carbon Neutral



Most of us agree that “they should do more”, but it is time to start the conversation about where Rotary fits and what we should do. If we want to reduce Australia's carbon footprint, we have to do our bit.

### The first step is to identify what Carbon we generate personally.

We have provided information on areas where individuals can reduce their footprint with minimal effort. We are working on having this information on a website. If each of us makes some of the easy changes, collectively it will make a significant contribution.

Some suggestions are:

Go Carbon Neutral with your electricity and gas. Insulate your home//switch to renewables//buy energy efficient appliances// use less water//turn off the lights // Reduce, Reuse, Recycle // go paperless for your bills // eliminate single use plastics.

If we go one step further and tell others about what we have done, some will follow and this is when we will start to see a significant difference. Please tell us about what you have done. Publish on Facebook and tell your friends. Most importantly tell us and we will promote it through our Facebook page— advise [Lesley](#).

### What carbon does our Club generate at our meeting and service activities?

ESRAG will soon release a Club Carbon Calculator and our District has made a significant contribution to this project. For more information contact [Ted Wagborne](#).

### What carbon does our District generate at its meetings and events?

This is a new area for all of us and what we learn at Club level will filter through and be applied to District activities.

### What carbon will be generated at RICON2023 – the Melbourne World Convention

A committee has been formed to identify ways to reduce the carbon generated by this event. These include waste, promotional material and transport options. Final statements will be made available following the 2022 RICON in Houston. At that time volunteer requirements will be determined.

### What carbon does Rotary International generate collectively?

At the moment we don't know, it's made up of all of the above. It seems inevitable that at some point Rotary International will commit to becoming carbon neutral, but it has to be based on facts and actions we are going to take. Everything we do to minimize the carbon we produce, will take us closer to being reality.

The first step is to think about your energy use and take just one step.

## COP26

There has been so much talk lately about carbon emissions, becoming carbon neutral and offsetting but what do these terms really mean for us? Australia's emissions in the year to March 2021 were 494.2 million tonnes. The UK's emissions were 326.1 million.

1 million trees will absorb approximately 24,000 tons of carbon dioxide each year.

There are not enough trees!



Wayne Westcott from [GreenFleet](#) has spoken at several Rotary clubs recently and their website contains a vast amount of information to help you.

1. Carbon neutrality means that you/your organisation's net greenhouse gas emissions are equal to zero, by reducing and offsetting all emissions relating to your activities.
2. Carbon neutral certified is different. The Australian Government's Carbon Neutral Program certifies organisations, products, services and events against the [Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard - the Standard](#)
3. The difference between carbon credits and offsets.

Greenfleet offsets capture carbon through future tree planting projects. Thus over the lifetime of the trees planted, carbon emissions are sequestered from the atmosphere. Carbon credits are taken from completed projects, where trees were planted 5 years ago and the amount of carbon captured is counted as a credit to be sold to companies.

[Find out more.](#)

[Click here for a video recording of Wayne's presentation to Rotary Keilor East.](#)



## **Bee Happy News—Essendon Rotary's Centenary Project**

The Rotary Club of Essendon has completed a centenary project to build and distribute 100 bee hives during 2020-2021. This was in conjunction with Moonee Valley Council, local apiarists, the Strathmore Men's Shed, Bendigo Bank and Keilor East Rotary.

The first 10 flat pack hives were assembled by the Men's Shed volunteers with Rotarians and apiarists assisting early in 2020. Work has continued and 60 hives have now been delivered to Traralgon Central Rotary for use in bushfire affected areas. There is interest from local schools and council on other hives to be homed.

Interest has been so great that the Moonee Valley Beekeeping Club has now been formed, with Michael Portelli as inaugural President. Moonee Valley Council has also appointed a Bee Coordinator, Jacinta Martin.

The next Bee Happy Phase kicked off on Sunday 17th October from 3.30 to 6.00 pm at the IGA supermarket parking area in Fawkner street Essendon. Michael Portelli, while doing some shopping at IGA noticed a bee swarm on the footpath where the Agapanthus plants are. He put his 'superman' bee protection suit on, grabbed a beehive box, got the smoker smoking device, and then called Andrew Panjikov for help, and off we went to 'bee happy' work.

We successfully captured all the bees and put them in the box in a new home. During this we spread the gospel Bee Happy faith to curious by passers, did not get stung and carefully introduced the queen bee and her followers to a new modern home. Michael now has the FIRST of the live 100 beehives in his backyard. Unbelievable but true. Andrew tells us that it is swarming season so if you see a swarm needing a new home, contact Michael at [portelli.michael@gmail.com](mailto:portelli.michael@gmail.com) or Andrew [andrew.panjikov@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.panjikov@gmail.com) .



*The swarm located in the Agapanthus*



*Michael, suited up for the job, smokes the bees into the box*



*The last few stragglers*



*Brave Andrew, unsuited and Michael all covered up.*



16th November  
6.00pm AEDT UTC + 11

## Driving to the Future

Join the EV revolution

Electric Vehicles, powered by renewable energy sources hear how they will be a vital part in achieving meaningful emission reductions by 2030.



### Speakers:



**Will Edmonds**  
Renewable Energy Analyst

Will Edmonds Associate BloombergNEF where he focuses on Australia's consumer-led energy transition. His research encompasses the electrification of Australia's vehicle fleet and the behind-the-meter solar and storage transformation sweeping the country. Will holds a Master of Economics from the University of Sydney.



**Paul Fox**  
Co-founder of Evie Networks.

Evie is building Australia's largest electric vehicle charging network and has been running a fleet of electric Ubers for over 18 months. Paul has been an entrepreneur and investor in clean energy for 20 years in Australia and California. Previous roles include ComanToothill, AGIL Energy Ltd, Southern Cross Ventures, the California Clean Energy Fund, Flex and the United Nations.



**Alexandra Kelly**  
Policy Manager of the Australian Electric Vehicle Council.

Alexandra is the Policy Manager at the Electric Vehicle Council. Through her knowledge of the Australian EV industry, she supports stakeholders across industry and government in developing policy and programs to accelerate uptake in Australia.

→ Date: 16th November | 6:00 PM AEDT UTC + 11  
Presented by the Rotary Clubs of Sydney.

Please register for this webinar via the website:  
[www.climateandpeace.com.au](http://www.climateandpeace.com.au)



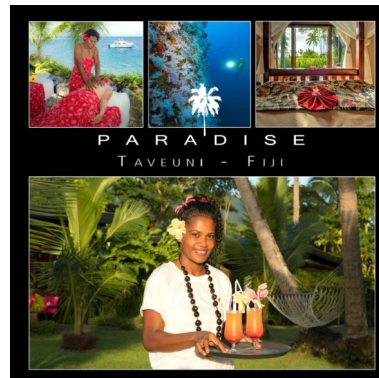
At the next meeting set for Tuesday 25th November at 7.30pm AEDT, we will have Karen D, Hendricks-Hands, Founder and Director of Collaborations for ESRAG who is attending COP26 in Glasgow.

Karen will be interviewed by Rob Anderson from Rotary Canterbury. Rob is Co-Chair of the ESRAG Climate Solutions Taskforce and a member of the executive team of ESRAG Oceania.

This interview will be followed by a panel discussion around COP26—the decisions, the concerns, the future with perspectives from youth, former COP attendees and climate scientists.

A not to be missed report from COP26.

ZOOM link and a reminder will be sent the week prior to the event.



Raffle in support of the Its Time Foundation—and your club Paradise Taveuni Resort is giving you the chance to win a holiday of a lifetime on the beautiful island of Taveuni, Fiji. The Fijian people will make you feel welcome like no other.

The prize is fully donated, so the \$20AUD per ticket is split: 50% to the Rotary Club you select to spend on their community projects. [Register your club here.](#)

40% to Its Time solar schools projects & 10% to Plastic Free Oceans (an initiative of Its Time Foundation). After the prize is drawn you will get an update showing the school you helped. Its Time Foundation installs solar panels on school roofs in Fiji and the Pacific Islands. So far 20 schools have been supported

[Buy a ticket and share this offer with your members, friends and family.](#)

The Its Time Foundation is led by Rob Edwards, OAM, a member of the Rotary Club of Corrimall, and a member of the ESRAG Oceania Executive Team.

## Are You a Young Aspiring Journalist?



Would you like to share your environmental perspective?



UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021

Imagine you are a journalist at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November 2021 and write your report for us!

We are looking for entries from those in year 7-10

## ESRAG Oceania Young Journalist Competition

(ESRAG is Rotary's Action Group for the Environment)

### TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

<https://esraganzpi.org/cop26-competition>

### PRIZES

The winning entry will be awarded AUD \$100

Runner up will be awarded AUD \$50

Winning entries will be published in the ESRAG Oceania Newsletter, on the website and in other Rotary publications.





## E-waste surges as we send a goldmine to landfill

As reported in the media last week, the amount of electronic waste created globally has increased again in 2021, with the majority of it unlikely to be recycled. The amount of E-waste is predicted to be more than 70,000,000 tons by 2030 and less than 20% is effectively recycled. With the increased use of technology due to working from home in lockdown, E-waste is expected to be over 55,000,000 tons this year according to the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Forum.

Despite E-waste containing gold, silver, rare earth elements and valuable glass the amount recycled is quite small. That is in contrast to public perception that most waste is recycled, with collection boxes at telecommunications stores, [councils](#) and depots, libraries, supermarkets and through projects like the [Mobile Muster](#).

The solution is to make it easy for people to recycle but we also need to ensure that manufacturers have a responsibility for end-of-use recycling with goods returned to the manufacturer for repairing, repurposing or recycling components. This is the plan promoted by NSW Circular in a report to the ABC recently.

**Did you know:**

**One ton of mobile phones contains more gold than an average ton of gold ore?**

And it's not just mobile phones. Batteries, solar panels, microchips and antennas in everything from computers, TVs, set top boxes, toothbrushes, coffee makers and microwaves contain elements to be reclaimed.

Lisa McLean from NSW Circular was reported as saying that climate change and Australia's need to move to net-zero emissions means the time to shift to a circular economy is now. While transitioning to renewable energies and transport are needed to cut down Australia's emissions, that still leaves a lot of emissions in manufacturing, mining and waste disposal.

[E-waste surges in 2021 as world sends goldmine to landfill - ABC News](#)



MobileMuster has recently started a trial of E-waste recycling of more than just mobile phones. This trial is supported by a National Product Stewardship Investment Fund grant to scope the trial.

**Did you know:**

The % of electronic products currently being recycled?

- 3% of smart home devices and eReaders
- 4% of tablets, bluetooth speakers and gaming consoles
- 5% smart watches
- 7% set top boxes
- 12% modems
- 14% landline phones

MobileMuster dismantles all the devices in Australia and recovers over 95% of the materials. The components are sorted into glass, plastics and metals so they can be processed separately through shredding, crushing, heating and smelting techniques to maximise resource recovery with the lowest environmental impact. [Electronic waste recycling trial - MobileMuster](#)

## Plastics recycling

There are 2 forms of plastics recycling—hard plastics and soft plastics.

At last week's District Environment & Sustainability meeting, Joe De Simone from Brunswick Tullamarine Rotary explained the differences and their end uses.

**Soft plastics** are those which are easily crunched, like biscuit packets, plastic wrap, bubble wrap, frozen food bags, bread bags, fresh produce bags, pasta bags, Plastic Australia Post satchels, carrier bags, wine bladders and more. Recycle these through [RedCycle](#) which has collection points at all major supermarkets.

These recycled plastics are used in reconophalt, road base, steel reinforced plastic fence posts and bollards and signage.



**Hard plastics** are those which are moulded and do not bend such as laundry and detergent bottles. They go in your household recycle bin and are sorted and then recycled at your local Materials Recovery Facility. They are remanufactured into **benches**, buckets, drums, shelving, garbage bins, road cones, drainage pipes.

For more information go to [PlanetArk](#) // [CleanUp Australia](#) // [REPLAS](#) // [CoolAustralia](#) // [ABC War on Waste](#) // [EPA](#)

## The Earthshot Prize

The Earthshot Prize is the most ambitious and prestigious of its kind – designed to incentivise change and help to repair our planet over the next ten years. It is centred around five 'Earthshots' – simple but ambitious goals for our planet which, if achieved by 2030, will improve life for us all, for generations to come.



Protect and restore  
nature



The Republic of Costa Rica and the Ministry for the Environment developed programs and paid citizens to protect forests, plant trees, and restore ecosystems.

Costa Rica

Clean our air



Vidyut Mohan who with his social enterprise, Takachar has developed a cheap, small-scale, portable technology that attaches to tractors in remote farms, converting crop residues into sellable bio-products like fuel and fertilizer. Takachar's technology reduces emissions by up to 98%, improving the air quality that currently reduces the affected population's life expectancy by up to 5 years.

India

Revive our oceans



Sam Teicher and Gator Halpern launched Coral Vita's first facility in Grand Bahamas. Coral Vita grows coral on land to replant in oceans, gives new life to dying ecosystems. Its methods grow coral up to 50 times faster than traditional methods and improves resilience to the impact of climate change.

Bahamas

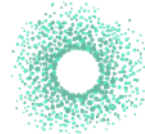
Build a waste free  
world



The City of Milan's Food Waste Hubs tackle two problems in one. Launched in 2019 with the aim of halving waste by 2030, each hub recovers food mainly from supermarkets and companies' canteens and gives it to NGOs who distribute it to the neediest citizens.

Italy

Fix our climate



Vaitea Cowan co-founded Enapter, a clean energy company. Their AEM Electrolyser green hydrogen generators turns renewable electricity into emission-free hydrogen gas. Developed quicker and cheaper than once thought possible, the technology already fuels cars and planes, powers industry and heats homes.

Thailand, Germany, Italy

[First-ever Winners of Prince William's Earthshot Prize announced - Earthshot Prize](#)



## Balibao School Garden Project: A project of the Rotary Club of Port Phillip and SpendItWell

By planting a food garden, the project has ensured fresh healthy food for the children, their families and teachers as well as providing them with an understanding of growing food, caring for the gardens and harvesting. Sebastian met with the communities and started planning the Belola and Ai-Asa gardens at the end of August with planting starting at the beginning of September and the tuk-tuk arriving in the middle of September.



Ai-Asa has planted tomatoes, lettuce, eggplant, carrots and bok choy. Water spinach and yardlong beans will be planted soon.



At Belola, they have planted Bok choy, lettuce, carrot, long bean, amaranthus tricolour, cucumber, choy sum, eggplant and tomatoes. They will also plant water spinach and yardlong beans soon.

This garden will a project which keeps on giving with a sustainable food source for the communities.

David Dippie and Kris Webb

