



WHAT'S IN THIS BULLETIN

7th September 2021

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NEXT MEETING

Guest speaker Tuesday, 7 September 2021

This is a Zoom meeting.

If you would like to visit our meeting, please contact us by email on rotaryclubcentralmelbourne@gmail.com or phone 0455-858-996 and request log-in details.

The meeting will commence at 7:40am and conclude no later than 8:45.



Stephanie Woollard OAM: Seven Women - update for Rotary Central Melbourne 4 years on.

Stephanie started her Seven Women project when she was only 22 years old, after visiting Nepal and meeting seven disabled women making soaps and candles in a small tin shed. In Nepal, disabilities carry a strong social stigma, believed to bring bad fortune. The women were consequently able to sell only a fraction of what they produced at market and lived in dire poverty. Disturbed by the injustice and isolation these women were facing, she spent her last \$200 of travel money to pay two trainers to help train the women and sell their products abroad.

Since then, Stephanie has devoted the past decade to fundraising to help change the lives of disabled and marginalised women in Nepal. Seven Women has trained and employed over 1,000 disadvantaged women and has helped more than 5,000

Meeting Responsibilities

Chair
JOHN, Neville

Greeter/Zoom Host
DRIVER, Allan

Reporter
GANGULI, Suvam

Photographer
THORNTON, Roger

Door
JOHN, Rebecca

Bulletin Editor
INCHAUSTI, Ignacio

Social Media
LIM, Daniel

Speakers

Sep 14, 2021 7:40 AM
[Brett Butland](#)

Eradicating mammalian predators from New Zealand – can we do it?

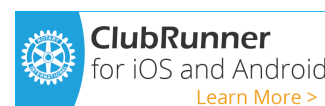
Sep 28, 2021 7:40 AM
[Adj. Prof Nicola Sasanelli](#)

The Australian space ecosystem, why space is considered a priority for this country

Oct 19, 2021 7:40 AM
[Sabrina and Gerard Watt](#)

Farming in a flash

[View entire list](#)



women in remote villages in Nepal offering shelter, medical assistance and education.

Through her Melbourne tour company, Hands on Development, Steph leads specialised tours to Nepal giving exclusive access and exposure to participants to connect and contribute through their areas of expertise. Our member Rhys Williams will add his first-hand experience of a Hands On Development tour to Nepal.

Stephanie is a Melbourne-born social entrepreneur, Rotary Foundation Peace Scholar and Rotarian. In 2016, she was recognised on the global stage with a prestigious Rotary Responsible Business Award, presented at the United Nations headquarters in New York to only six honourees worldwide. Other accolades received include Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2019, the JCI TOYP award presented in Estonia, Moral Fairground's National Most Ethical Enterprise Award and the Nepali Association of Victoria's award for 'Commendable service to the Nepalese Community'.

Stephanie holds an undergraduate degree in International Development from La Trobe University in Melbourne and a Masters degree in Peace Studies & Conflict Resolution from Uppsala University, Sweden.

She was a keynote speaker at our District Conference, Shepparton 2017.

FROM THE LAST MEETING - 31st August

Posted by Campbell CHAMBERS

Rotary Central Melbourne Meeting Report, August 31, 2021

Chair: **Frank O'Brien**

Reporter: **Campbell Chambers**

The following guests were welcomed to the meeting:

- **Mandy Watson**, Guest Speaker,
- Suzette Taylor
- Julie Chambers
- Ruth (Suvam's partner)
- Pam Robertson
- Pauline O'Brien

Allan Driver advised that President Elias Lebbos was unable to attend due to the ill health of his father, we wish the family all the best.

Vice President **Kevin Love** opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement to Country and welcomed Members and Guests including the Guest Speaker to the meeting.

Meeting Chair, Frank O'Brien, reflected on the workings of Rotary in Action in India last week proposed a toast to Rotary International and introduced the Guest Speaker, Mandy Watson.

Guest Speaker:

Mandy Watson: Whales on our coast

Mandy Watson has a degree in agricultural science and 30+ years of experience working on biodiversity conservation. Currently, she is employed as a biodiversity officer with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning based in Warrnambool. With a background in threatened species conservation, Mandy has been monitoring and protecting whales in Victoria for over 25 years.

Mandy specialises in photo-identification research on Southern Right Whales. She established the South East Australian Southern Right Whale Photo Identification Catalogue and collaborates with scientists from around the world on research into population dynamics of this endangered species. Mandy will discuss this work and will also explain the different species of whale that can be found on our coast, how to tell them apart, how they are protected, and what to do if you encounter one.

Mandy gave a terrific presentation on the whale species on our doorstep. She first gave us an explanation of the different species of whales, baleen & toothed. We are lucky to have good habitation environments for the baleen whales here in Victoria.

Blue whales are normally further offshore due to the feeding conditions, but they can be seen in Portland. Humpback sightings can now occur throughout the year due to an abundance of numbers.

The main focus for today's talk was on the Southern Right Whale. They weigh up to 80 tons and have very distinctive features. There are 3 species worldwide, ours is the Southern Hemisphere with a population of 12,000 although only 3,000 in Australian waters. They were named after being considered the 'right' whale to hunt due to their blubber & baleen and relative ease of the hunt. Whilst hunting stopped in the late 1970's they still face threats via vessel strikes, entanglement plus climate change and overharvesting of their food source.

They have endangered classification under the Commonwealth Environment and Biodiversity Conversation Act.

They are a migratory species with calving grounds along the southern Australian coastline. Mostly it is the pregnant females that migrate, producing a calf every 3 years or so. It is not unusual to see them in shallow inshore waters during the breeding season.

South Eastern Australian population of the whales is estimated to be 268 with an increase of 4.7% per annum. They are identified by the pattern of callosities on their heads and are matched using a coding system. More recently drones are used to photo-identify calves, this is conducted with a Wildlife Research Permit under strict conditions however locals are urged to get involved as citizen scientists.

You can get involved by registering at <https://www.swift.net.au/whaleface/>

Frank thanked Mandy for her presentation and offered free use of his holiday home for anyone who wanted to head down to Port Fairy.

Milestone Announcements

Members Birthdays

There were no members birthdays this week.

Partner Birthdays

Sue Duras, Peter's partner, 2nd September

Wedding Anniversaries

David Jones and Sally Moon 31 years on 31st August 1990

Date Joined Rotary

Brett Jones 5th September 2017, 4 years

Campbell Chambers 6th September 2016, 5 years

Announcements:

Only one announcement, from Rohan Williams. Rohan advised that last Sunday 10 Rotarians had the pleasure of interviewing 60 year-11 students for the National Youth Science Forum coming up early next year. Typically these students will be pursuing STEM subjects at university.

The Inquisition:-

There was no inquisition this week.

President's announcements:

Vice President Kevin Love made the following announcements stemming from the recent Board meeting –

1. The Club has received a letter (below) from Marjorie Gerlinger regarding the recent announcement of the Bernie Gerlinger scholarship. Marjorie thanked the club for recognising Bernie's relationship with Rotary and in particular his support of young people.
2. The Bunnings vouchers that Frank had provided were snapped up within 30 mins, thanks to Frank and those who supported the initiative.
3. With the loss of the GDF this year the club will need to be creative around fundraising and will be reviewing the budget allocations at the next meeting of the board.

4. Kevin also reflected on the efforts of Ahmed Kelly, an Iraqi-born Australian Paralympic swimmer that is competing in his 3rd games. Ahmed won a silver medal in the SM3 150m individual medley race last Saturday. Growing up Ahmed was involved in the Children First Foundation Trust in which Rotary has been a partner. This is a terrific fit with Rotary's Motto this year, Serve to Change Lives.

Good Evening Elias,

Thank you, the Board and the members and partners of Rotary Central Melbourne for this tremendous recognition of Bernie's contribution to the community through Rotary. He was very passionate about the education of young people and giving them the opportunity to develop their full potential and to add to that we have had a long connection with Steps Outreach Service going back to when he first joined the club. These scholarships certainly reflect his belief that everything Rotary did in providing support to young people would contribute to a better future for them. He would be very humbled, and proud, to be recognised and remembered in this way.

**Best regards
Marjorie**

Conclusion:

In wrapping up Allan Driver advised that next week's meeting will be on Zoom, future meetings will continue to be on zoom until we get further updates regarding lockdown.

Our guest speaker will be Stephanie Wollard the author of "Tin Shed to the United Nations". She will be discussing the theme of Seven Women.

Gerard Hogan will send out the virtual seating arrangements. Please make contact with the people on either side of you.

ZONE 8 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE - LEARNING, LEADING, ACTION!

Posted by Neville JOHN

The Rotary Zone 8 Conference will be held on Saturday, September 11th, 2021

"**Learning, Leading, Action**" is this year's Zone 8 conference theme, putting a spotlight on the essence of Rotarians and the way we get things done.

The theme also gives a clue to the conference content. Hear from speakers who are leading our organisation and our impact, learn from thought leaders and be impressed by a host of Rotarians taking action to change lives in our communities.



SEPTEMBER 11TH and 12TH
11:30 - 1:30 PM (AEST)



[Read more...](#)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION WORKSHOPS : REMINDER OF NEW DATES!

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Workshops - Help Build A Better Rotary

These are FREE workshops on 19th September and 26th September

[Read more...](#)

GARDEN DESIGNFEST IS POSTPONED UNTIL 2022

Posted by Roger THORNTON



Garden DesignFest Organising Committee has come to the view that health, operational and financial risks are sufficiently great that it would be most unwise to proceed in November 2021. An exciting selection of gardens, particularly in regional Victoria, has been offered and sufficient sponsors and advertisers identified. Nonetheless, these factors are outweighed by:

- uncertainty about the extent of the current lockdown, and the possibility of future snap lockdowns;
- operational complexities with planning and operating in the COVID environment;
- the risk of poor attendances, plus the inability to run bus tours, leading to a significant drop in revenue; and
- the risk that insufficient volunteers would be available to staff the gardens.

Garden DesignFest Organising Committee is committed to running the event over the two weekends of November 12-13 and November 19-20 next year. We are confident that most designers, owners, sponsors and advertisers identified this year will agree to stick with us in 2022.

CLUB FUND RAISING - How You Can Help

Posted by Rob HINES

Voluntary contributions

To everyone that has made or intends to make a donation towards club projects, thank you!

If you are in a position to make a donation or even a series of weekly donations please arrange to transfer those funds directly to the club bank account with the reference "Donation".

Bank Account Details:

BSB 033-000: Account number: 791085

Thank you for your support!

GALLERY



Guest Speaker - Mandy Watson



Meeting Chair - Frank O'Brien



Guest - Suzette Taylor



Vice President, RCM - Kevin Love



Members and guests on the call

