

## WHAT'S IN THIS BULLETIN

2 March 2024

- Next meeting
- Guest speaker - 5 March 2024
- From the last meeting
- President's announcements
- Global Grant Scholarships
- Upcoming speakers
- Gallery

## Meeting Responsibilities

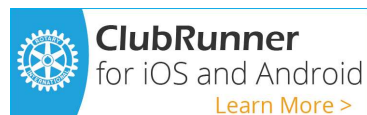
*Chair*  
WILLIAMS, Rohan

*Greeter/Zoom Host*  
ILOTT, John

*Reporter*  
KING, Anne

*Photographer*  
THORNTON, Roger

*Bulletin Editor*  
OEI, Nicholas



## NEXT MEETING

This is face to face meeting at the RACV Club on **Tuesday 5 March 2024**. The meeting room will take place in the Theatrette on the Chancery Level of the RACV Club.

The meeting will commence at **7:40am** and conclude no later than **8:30am**. Members and guests are invited to stay for coffee or breakfast in the club Bistro following the meeting.

If you would like a more general discussion about attending a Rotary meeting, please contact the club secretary at [rotaryclubcentralmelbourne@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryclubcentralmelbourne@gmail.com).

## GUEST SPEAKER - TUESDAY, 5 MARCH

## VicPol Legacy: Report on Cambodian World of Difference tour, December 2023



The VicPol Legacy and Rotary Central Melbourne partnership involved assisting 25 VicPol legatees to undertake a Rotary World of Difference humanitarian tour to Cambodia in October 2023.

VicPol Legacy provides services to families of Victorian police officers who have died, including services for children and youth.

This project was designed to enhance leadership skills and an international perspective for their 18-25 age cohort. Participants came from a variety of different backgrounds. Legatees and staff assisted on three RCM Port Melbourne 2023 sausage sizzles which helped them raise \$2,000 for their trip. It also helped with engagement between our members.

The legatees were required to use their leadership skills to make a contribution to the cost of the trip. In fact, the group raised over \$30,000 - a tremendous outcome - some of which was contributed to Rotary Cambodian projects.

### Presenters

- **Andrea Lyons, Youth and Family Liaison Officer, VicPol Legacy**  
Andrea manages the youth programs and partnership with VicPol Legacy and was very involved in the Cambodian trip.
- **Nicholas Stefaniw, WOD tour participant**  
Nick lost a parent who was a serving Victorian police officer and now is a serving police officer himself.

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## **FROM THE LAST MEETING**

## Rotary Central Melbourne online evening meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, 27 February 2024

**Reporter:** Herb Greenwood

**Photographer:** Roger Thornton

President Michelle opened the meeting in her most welcoming way inviting all to enjoy our zoom meeting and acknowledging the traditional owners of this land.

### Special Guest Speakers

Director **Hoa Van Nguyen** was invited to address our meeting.

After thanking us all for the opportunity to speak, Hoa explained how the **VietNam Foundation** began 28 years ago with only three scholars, with the intention of helping the poor. This expanded and gathered pace, achieving tax deductability with the government in 2018 and in 2022 the 'Build a Future' program emerged.

The three main aims were:

- Build or refurb buildings as schools of education
- Recycle bicycles for school children
- Provide clean water

**Dr Khoa (Ken) Ho Le** continued by explaining how \$300 scholarships were awarded direct to the students to facilitate their attendance in the instruction in the basics of education. This program was endorsed and heavily supported by the Government of Vietnam. This program focused on the bright but poor students who were then encouraged to help others to study and advance their education. Our own member **Rhys Williams** was heavily involved in the project.

Students coped well with reading and writing but required more intensive tuition in the art of speaking. Summer camps were arranged to assist with the help of volunteers. Learning by collaboration developed into the Navitas Foundation, which promoted development for employment as learning was the opportunity to change.

Charter President of the Rotary Club of Saigon, **Kieu Vuong Nguyen** followed and assured us the oversight of necessary compliance was upheld by their Club, which assists with visas and work permits for all volunteers in Vietnam.

The addresses were followed by a five-minute video showing the need and value of bridges in Vietnam, building new bridges in locations that support larger communities with needs to access schools and industries that may better the general community and the replacement of old, rickety monkey bridges with new concrete bridges.

Many questions followed and the presenters were thanked with a round of applause.

### Special event speaker - Steven Wells PHF

Steven recalled the initial event in 2005 when our club first assisted the **Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre** in constructing their first horticultural therapy

garden.

This effort originally proposed by **Lynne McBain** (wife of Bruce) as a Rotary project has developed with the persistent and professional help of Steve into one of the most useful assets of the centre.

The photo session that followed showed the before and after of a great facility that provides both the patients and staff of the centre with a quiet and beautiful refuge from the busy actions of the centre.

The photos were reminders of the past actions and involvement of the many existing and past members of our club.

Well done, Steve.

### **Member announcements**

- **Neville John** advised that Neville Taylor was not available to complete his presentation
- Our Club's major fundraising activity, the Bunnings barbecues, needs volunteers! Please contact **Campbell Chambers** if you can assist
- The Club's Strategy Day is scheduled for Saturday, 2 March from 10am until 2pm at the home of **Anne King**. Please respond to Anne if you would like to attend.

President Michelle closed the meeting with the message 'create hope in the world, as it is optimism and faith that lead the world'.

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## **PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Michelle's February video update is available [here](#).

### **Dates for your diary**

- **The IFTAR Friendship Dinner** is planned for Friday, 5 April at the William Angliss Restaurant, Melbourne. Please RSVP to **Rana Ebrahimi** by Friday, 8 March.

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## **GLOBAL GRANT SCHOLARSHIPS**

Rotary District 9800 has designed a targeted Post-Graduate Scholarship to focus on overseas study for a Masters degree or PhD, to the value of up to \$US 60,000 (or two scholarships at \$US 30,000 each).

The Scholarship is designed to enhance the profiles of our best graduates in recent years and acknowledges the underlying strength of Victorian University graduates. The field of study must fit one of the Rotary Foundation's 7 Areas of Focus.

Applications close 31 March 2024. For further information and details on how to apply, please see the below flyer.



# Rotary Global Grant Scholarship



## ROTARY POST-GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP VALUE: UP TO USD60,000

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The Scholarship is designed to enhance the profiles of our best graduates in recent years and acknowledges the underlying strength of Victorian University graduates. The field of study must fit one of the Rotary Foundation's 7 Areas of Focus.

Applications are invited from persons normally resident in Victoria and must be made through a Victorian Rotary club. Lineal descendants of current/recent Rotarians are ineligible.

Global Grants are awarded through a globally competitive process.

### Applications close 31 March 2024

Contact: David Gorman  
p: 0411 806 140  
e: [davidcgorman53@gmail.com](mailto:davidcgorman53@gmail.com)  
Rotary Club of Albert Park

<https://rotarydistrict9800.org.au/sitepage/foundation/scholarships>



- ◆ Think globally
- ◆ Make a difference
- ◆ Become a leader

ROTARY  
INTERNATIONAL  
DISTRICT 9800  
INVITES  
VICTORIAN  
APPLICANTS  
TO APPLY

Rotary offers prestigious international scholarships of up to USD60,000 for graduate students pursuing careers in fields that support the Foundation's Seven Areas of Focus:



## UPCOMING GUEST SPEAKERS

Tuesday, 12 March 2024

**Nikki Firmin - 'Safe phones save lives'**

In April 2020, our CEO and Founder, Ashton Wood, had a profound realisation – that mobile phones, often a lifeline for victims, become casualties in cases of domestic violence, leaving survivors isolated and vulnerable during

emergencies.

Driven by this understanding, DV Safe Phone ([www.dvsafephone.org](http://www.dvsafephone.org)) was founded with a clear mission: to repurpose unused mobile phones from people's drawers and place them into the hands of domestic violence survivors. The impact has been profound, and our journey continues.

### **Tuesday, 19 March 2024**

#### **Sergeant Steve Turner, Leading Senior Constable Julie Woods and Sergeant Ben McWilliam - the Silk Miller Scholarship**

Sergeant Turner is the 2024 Silk Miller Scholarship awardee. He will speak on his innovative current role and how he anticipates the course will assist him. Commander Jo Stafford of Victoria Police will present his award.

Steve has spent the last 14 years working in the western suburbs of Melbourne, observing the revolving door of young people in and out of police custody. It has led him to look at what police do, and what can be done differently for better outcomes.

For the last 7 years he has been developing YCEIP (Youth Crime Early Intervention Project) Co-Led with WestJustice and other stakeholders. This project moved to implementation in 2022 and has achieved some very promising results. He oversees all young people in custody – looking for the drivers to crime, and what can be done to stop the young person coming back into police contact. This includes reviewing the young person's police history, the incident they were arrested for, support service referral and liaising with other services.

Steve completed the Cert IV in Adolescent Health & Wellbeing in 2021 which had a direct influence on his work. He now feels very privileged to have received the Silk Miller Award which is now allowing him to complete year 2 of the graduate diploma.

Also speaking are our two most recent graduates - Leading Senior Constable Julie Woods and Sergeant Ben McWilliam - who will receive their graduation certificates from Dr Ani Wierenga from University of Melbourne. We will hear from Julie and Ben, who will outline the impact their studies have had, and are having, on their very difficult work.

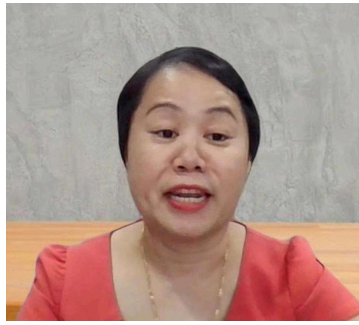
Rotary Central Melbourne instigated the Silk Miller Scholarship in 2000. It is named in memory of two slain Victoria Police Officers, Sergeant Gary Silk and Senior Constable Rodney Miller. Scholarships funded by the Club have now been awarded to 23 police officers. Our Club became involved when Rotary's focus on health included the issues of youth suicide prevention and youth mental illness. The Club pays 50% of the individual's course fee and the recipient funds the other 50% personally. This may help explain the commitment and passion these officers have for their roles in improving outcomes for adolescents.

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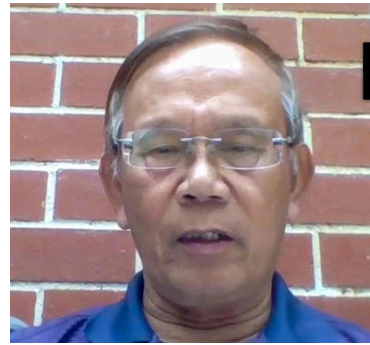
## **GALLERY**



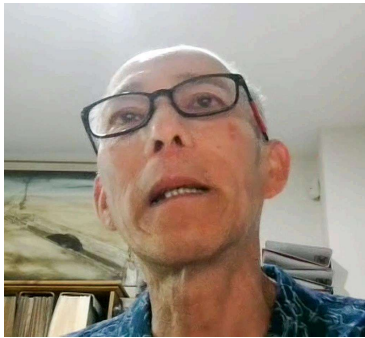
Chair Neville John



Saigon Rotary President  
Kieu Vuong Nguyen



Hao Van Nguyen



Khoa Ho-Le (Ken)



VietNam Foundation



President Michelle



Steven Wells



The garden at the Royal  
Talbot