

## **WHAT'S IN THIS BULLETIN**

13 February 2024

- Next Meeting
- Guest speaker - 13 February 2024
- From the Last Meeting
- President's Announcements
- What's New in District 9800?
- Save the Date: Former Ambassador to US
- Susie's Shelves Are A Little Empty
- Gallery

### **Meeting Responsibilities**

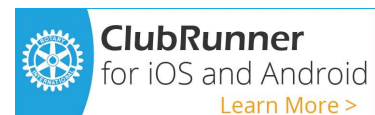
*Chair*  
FOWLER, Paul

*Greeter/Zoom Host*  
SALVANO, Neil

*Reporter*  
BROUWER - REITH, Annet

*Photographer*  
THORNTON, Roger

*Bulletin Editor*  
HARVEY, Koren



## **NEXT MEETING**

Not Applicable. The bulletin editor on duty sincerely apologises for the inability to publish this bulletin on time due to experiencing an illness. He was unable to send proactive communication to anyone else due to the same reason. Please refer to the 20th February 2024 edition for details under this section.

## **GUEST SPEAKER - 13 FEBRUARY 2024**



### **Janette Etherington: Interplast - repairing bodies and rebuilding lives**

Interplast sends teams of volunteer plastic and reconstructive surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses and allied health professionals to provide life-changing surgery and medical training in seventeen developing nations in the Asia-Pacific region. Work is undertaken in partnership with local organisations, including hospitals and universities.

Rotary co-founded Interplast in 1983. Rotary Clubs and Rotarians across Australia and New Zealand remain invaluable partners in Interplast's mission to "repair bodies and rebuild lives".

Janette Etherington is the Interplast Rotarian Engagement Coordinator. She describes her role as her "dream job". She has an absolute passion for the work that Interplast does, and the difference it makes to so many people's lives.

Janette has been a Rotarian for nearly 10 years. She is a member and Past President of the Rotary Club of Nunawading, in District 9810. In Janette's previous work lives she has held a number of senior management positions in retail, bookselling and the apprenticeship sector, working in both the commercial and not-for-profit worlds.

---

## **FROM THE LAST MEETING**

Reported by **Rhys Williams**

- There were 28 members in attendance, and one visitor. Neville John introduced his guest, Anastasia Ah Tong
- President Michelle advised members of the recent death of former Barry Tassall
- Several members made comments led by Frank O'Brien. Frank noted that Barry:
  - Was a Charter member of what was originally the Port Phillip Club
  - Was a senior banker and stockbroker, including in New York City

- Should be remembered as an active Rotarian who worked in many areas, and a fitting memory was as the 'gentleman of the club'
- Maintained excellent meeting and event attendance when this was a formal component of being a member
- Was married with three children and was affected by dementia in his later years which led to care
- Yanpu and Doug also made positive reflective comments on the excellent fellowship and support that Barry provided

## **MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS AND MILESTONES (January and February 2024)**

### **Members' Birthdays**

#### **January 2024**

Lady PASTIDIO  
 Rohan WILLIAMS  
 Stella AVRAMOPOULOS  
 Cecily NEIL  
 Sonia DHILLON  
 Ben LEE  
 Kevin LOVE  
 Steve TURNER  
 Alison CHAN

#### **February 2024**

Neville John  
 David LAURIE  
 Darren PARK  
 Steve HALLIS

### **Partner Birthdays**

#### **January 2024**

Kuei Akol, partner of Ariik ARIIK  
 Pippa Thornton, partner of Roger THORNTON  
 Sally MOON, partner of David JONES  
 Suzette Taylor, partner of Neville TAYLOR

#### **February 2024**

Athina Driver, partner of Allan DRIVER  
 Charity Chen, partner of Luke ALLEN  
 Heather Rolls, partner of Russell ROLLS  
 Neville John, partner of Rebecca JOHN  
 Jasmeet Sekhon, partner of Sonia DHILLON  
 Maria Fragomeni, partner of Ignacio INCHAUSTI

### **Wedding Anniversaries**

#### **January 2024**

Allan DRIVER and Athina Driver together 42 years  
 Frank O'BRIEN and Pauline O'Brien together 54 years  
 Luke ALLEN and Charity Chen together 6 years  
 Roy GARRETT and Annie (deceased July 2019) 56 years  
 John ILOTT and Raylee ILOTT together 49 years

#### **February 2024**

Doug ROBERTSON, and Pamela Robertson, together 55 years  
 Herb GREENWOOD, and Leonie Greenwood, together 57 years  
 Bruce HERON, and Nasima Heron, together 41 years  
 Neville TAYLOR, and Suzette Taylor, together 32 years  
 Michelle CRAWFORD, and Alan Crawford, together 12 years  
 Daniel LIM, and Angela Ma, together 4 years

Russell ROLLS, and Heather Rolls, together 56 years  
Roger THORNTON, and Pippa Thornton, together 53 years

## **Rotary membership anniversaries**

### **January 2024**

Annet BROUWER - REITH, 7 years  
Peter DURAS AM, 51 years  
Paul FOWLER, 14 years  
David JONES, 33 years  
Ignacio INCHAUSTI, 4 years  
Bruce McBAIN, 31 years

### **February 2024**

Grace DAVIDSON, 1 year  
Roy GARRETT, 18 years  
Jo GARRETTY, 1 year  
Allan DRIVER, 28 years

## **GUEST SPEAKER: KEVIN LOVE - WESTERNPORT VALUES AND CHALLENGES**

(Note that the presentation was Kevin's personal views and not the position of any organisation that he is involved with)

### **Bio:**

- Kevin is a long-term member and has been involved with natural resource management since the late 1980s and is an acknowledged national leader in natural resource management and coastal policy. He currently operates a consultancy specialising in project management, policy advice and governance. He is the current Chair of the Phillip Island Nature Parks Board
- For over 20 years Kevin worked in the Victorian Departments of Agriculture and Premier and Cabinet, including in regional Victoria, as a Deputy Secretary and as an advisor to Premiers Kennett and Bracks on natural resources and infrastructure matters

### **Summary of presentation:**

- Kevin provided a powerpoint presentation which is available on request
- Kevin acknowledged the Bunurong people of the Western Port area, noting that the Bunurong were custodians of the area when it was a river valley and long before the sea rose and created the bay it is today. He said: 'War – mar -in, the area we know as Western Port, is the traditional lands of the Bunurong people. They are the custodians of the cultural heritage of the lands and waters and I acknowledge their ongoing connection'
- Western Port has an internationally significant wetland, is next to a nationally significant port and a growing part of Melbourne.

### **History**

- 80,000 to 20,000 years ago sea levels were 100m lower than today and the bay was dry land. It began to fill about 10,000 years ago and reached its current level about 6,000 years ago
- The Yallock-Bulluck and other clans of the Bunurong occupied these lands. Significant dispossession had occurred by 1839.
- George Bass visited in 1798 and attempts at British settlement were made in the 1820's, long before Melbourne was settled
- Western Port is so named because it was the westernmost port Bass had mapped on his journey from Sydney
- Draining of the Koo – Wee Rup swamp in the late 1800's and early 1900's led to large inflows of sediment and loss of seagrass. This has caused major environmental disruption

- A prison was established on French Island in 1916 and industrial development of Crib Point and Hastings / Long Island Point occurred in the 1960's and 70's. Premier Bolte called the area the 'Ruhr of the south'. Key developments include: John Lysaght and Bluescope Steel at Hastings; an Esso gas plant; it is also earmarked for a large wind farm which was recently rejected by the Commonwealth Minister, under its powers under the Ramsar Convention
- The Ramsar Convention (named after the city in Iran where it was signed) was enacted in 1982 to protect the habitat for birds, especially migratory birds
- Other agreements are in force including the East Asian Australian Flyway which protects birds which make an annual migratory trip between Western Port and Siberia
- By the late 1970's the importance of understanding and better managing the environment was recognised. Bird counting has been done continuously since 1973 and the area was designated an internationally significant wetland in the early 1980's.

#### How Western Port bay works

- There are two entrances to the bay to the west and east of Phillip Island. The western entrance is much wider so the tidal movement is predominately in a clockwise direction around French Island. There is a 2m tidal range so a lot of water comes into and out of the bay each day
- The turnover of water is the major reason why the water is so clean, despite the poor quality of some of the estuaries feeding into the bay. It also leads to a lot of resuspension of sediment that has come into the bay. The sediment, which commenced with the draining of the Koo-Wee Rup swamp, settles around the eastern end and remains the key challenge in overall management of bay
- The bay sits in a catchment of 370,000 ha. It has a total area of 68,000 ha, including 27,000 ha of sand and mudflats, half of which supports seagrass meadows
- The mudflats, sea grass, mangrove and salt marsh habitats support a range of species but are particularly important for birds and fish, and fish breeding

#### Pressures

- Climate change puts pressure on the system mainly through sea level rise, storm surges and change in fish stock
- Sediments smother seagrass and produces additional turbidity; the sediment amount is now stabilising with tree planting in the hills, erosion work, new mangrove plantings
- Toxicants can impact on sea life – eg insecticides from urban and rural sources; and PFAS
- Diffuse sources are the key problem in the absence of major infrastructure development
- There have been number of infrastructure projects proposed with various levels of impact – ranging in scale up to 20 times previous developments
- Seagrass loss in 60s and 70s is slowly being arrested with new growth
- Counting birds annually since 1973- the red necked stint and eastern curlew are the key migratory species- numbers are down slated because of industrial devt in China; the indigenous dominant bird is the black swan
- Summary of pressures: climate change impacts, agricultural run off (for example from large increase in asparagus production), rural and urban pollution (for ex termite treatment chemical run off), sediment (from agricultural sources is the dominant cause, the erosion run off), sea level rise impacts seagrass areas, industrial and urban development and growth keeps progressively coming and needs effective management.

---

### **(from the last meeting : continued)**

#### Managing the bay sustainably

- Melbourne Water have stepped up to improve our understanding of the bay and its processes – building on the benchmark Shapiro study of 1975; counting birds since

1973; Melb. Water scientific reports in 2018, 2019, 2023

- The Ramsar Management Plan identifies the key elements required: water quality improvement (sediment & toxicants), climate change adaptation (erosion, rising sea level), protecting flora and fauna
- While there are several entities with management responsibility, the key players are Melbourne Water, the EPA and the planning system.

### Questions and reflection

- There was time for two questions which focused on the effectiveness of the current state of management of the Bay which Kevin responded on successes in stabilising sediment run-off and increased seagrass growth and emphasised the ongoing challenges he covered in his words.
- Western Port is often taken for granted by Melbournians however its importance as an internationally significant wetland and its sensitivity was highlighted by Kevin's presentation. Hopefully this will lead to greater respect and interest from members.

### MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Peter Duras: Thanked members and friends for the recent successful Collingwood and Port Melb sausage sizzles which cleared over \$3,000; Advised that the emergency need for underwear by Youth Project is being addressed by donations and purchase from the money allocated by the Club
- Kerrie Hicks: Reminded members that the Rotary Emergency Services awards for 2024 will be made soon and asked members to think of persons to nominate. She will provide written nomination advice shortly
- Elias Lebbos: Reminded members that the Melbourne International Garden Show and the Grand Prix would be held shortly and that these are significant events for Travellers Aid. He requested members to be ready for his call for volunteers
- Pat Wilson Belonging Matters: Showed the new Belonging Matters video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OBE9jkYWv0Q&pp=ygUgYmVsb25naW5nIG1hdHRlcnMgd2Fyd2ljayBjYXZlbGw%3D>) featuring member Warwick Cavell. It is designed to encourage members to assist finding employment opportunities for young persons with a disability by recommending opportunities to Pat, Warwick or Rhys.

### INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBER: FLEUR MAIDMENT

- Fleur Maidment was inducted by President Michelle, in the Vocational Area of Environmental Scientist. Her partner Daniel was in attendance. Kevin Love will be her mentor and she will join the International Service team
- Fleur is re-joining Rotary after a long hiatus from Ballarat Young Achievers
- In her induction presentation, Fleur recounted a Rotary humanitarian trip to Myanmar which experienced a mortar attack by the Myanmar military to destroy the farms of Karen minority villagers in what is the longest running civil war in the world. Fleur reflected that these are the sorts of challenges for Rotary to manage in the modern world and that she, like others, have the vocational skills needed to make a difference.

---

## **PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Well deserved recognition**

We were delighted to learn that two of our own received Australia Day Honours:

- **Peter Duras AM** for significant service to sports physiotherapy, and to the community.
- **Marjorie Gerlinger OAM** for service to the community through a range of roles.

We offer heartfelt congratulations to both Marjorie and Peter who join a company of club recipients. You can read their citations in more detail [here](#).

**Dates for your diary.**

- **Board Meeting** on 21 February
- **Club Strategy Day** on Saturday 2nd March - details to follow

---

**WHAT'S NEW IN DISTRICT 9800?**

Here is the first edition of What's News for 2024 as we welcome the new year.





## From DG Ron



Welcome to all for the next half of our year in which we 'Create Hope in the World.'

The focus for the next period will remain on doing the wonderful things that make a difference in our communities and across the world, however we will now have the added challenge of supporting planning efforts of those in our clubs and District who will take on responsibility for leadership in 2024-25.

Regionalisation will see a change in how our clubs are grouped, but essentially the work we do at club level will continue and sound planning is most important to ensure our ongoing effectiveness.

Our District Update – "What's News" will continue to be our fortnightly communication of administrative matters and issues of importance. I again ask our presidents and secretaries to whom this is circulated to ensure your members are kept informed by sharing its contents.

Have a wonderful 5 months to come!

*Ron*

## District Support

Over the course of the next 5 months our District Team will continue our focus on providing support to individuals and clubs where needed. Remember that your Assistant Governor is your first point of contact.

Our next support activity, focusing on learning about Clubrunner, will be held tomorrow. Sandi Fulcher has been sending the detail to clubs over the past couple of months but this is a last-minute reminder. Please let your club members know the detail on registration highlighted below.

To book your virtual seat, please register at <https://www.trybooking.com/CNSGO>

**Date:** Saturday 3rd February

**Time:** 10am to 11:30am

**Where:** Online via Zoom - so bring a cuppa

**Who:** ClubRunner Product Specialist - Mickey (direct from Canada ☐) will take us through a range of topics with time for you to ask questions:



## Rotary International President Opportunities to meet.



Arrangements are in train to provide opportunity for Rotarians to meet with RI President, Gordon McInally during his only remaining visit to Australia during his presidency.

Details are on the third page of this Update.

This will sell out very quickly so take action if you would like to attend either event.

## Dates to Remember

March 23	PETS 2
April 12-14	District Conference
April 20	PETS 3
May 11	Council of Governors
May 18	District Award applications close
May 19	District Assembly
May 25-29	International Convention Singapore
June 16	Combined Board & DST Final meeting
June 30	District Changeover



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD





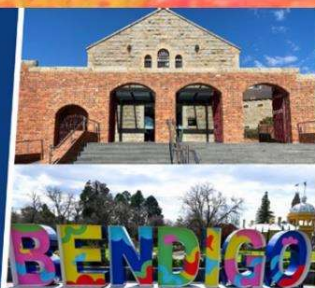
## District Conference

Rotary  
District 9800

**Bendigo Conference**

**12-14th April 2024**

**GATHERING ON THE  
GOLDFIELDS**



### Registrations

45 Clubs have members attending.

Are your Club members registered in big numbers?  
We have space for more to attend and would love representation from all Clubs in the District.

Essendon, Glenferrie, North Balwyn and Woodend have the highest number of registrations so far. Please challenge them!

[Click here to book](#)

The closing date for registrations is 25 March 2024 so contact your members now and encourage them to register.

### Showcase

Do you have a project of which you are particularly proud or would like to encourage others to join?

A primary focus for our Rotary year is Public Image and promotion. A good way to share the detail of your project is through having a stand at our District Conference Showcase.

If interested in spreading the news of your efforts or inviting others to become involved in your Project

### [Book a Showcase site here](#)

If you seek further clarification, please contact [Showcase Coordinator John Clue](#) (0499223328).

### New Booking Option

There is now the option to book for the Friday Night Welcome Event and / or the Saturday Night Dinner only.

This is ideal for partners who would like to join these events but not attend the Plenary Sessions.

[Click here to book for this option or the entire event.](#)

### Friday Night Dinner

There is a Welcome Function at the Town Hall from 5.30pm to 7.00pm on the Friday evening.

Then there is the opportunity for Club dinners or groups to have dinner together.

It is up to you where you would like to dine and someone from your Club needs to book this for your members.

More information is on the District Website including profiles of the Guest Speakers, details on the Entertainment and details of the Program.

**Here it is.**

### In Memoriam

It is a tradition at the District Conference to honour those who have Gone to Higher Service.

Please could you send to Jane details of any of your members who are no longer with us with some brief details and a photo, if available.

Jane is at: [Jane.Pennington@rotary9800.org](mailto:Jane.Pennington@rotary9800.org)



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD





## District Membership

The efforts of clubs in the first half of our year saw that as of 30 November we had 64 clubs, including 2 Rotaract, with 1885 members.

This resulted in an increase of 13 members across the District for that five month period. A positive achievement!

A common trend of decline across all Zone 8 clubs has continued however. On entering the new year our District Treasurer has paid levies based on My Rotary membership figures entered by our clubs that see us with 1840 members, a drop of 32 since the beginning of our Rotary year (1872) and 45 from November 30.

Membership is an ongoing challenge but I'm sure you'll join me in taking up this challenge. **Let's all aim from this point to increase our current club membership by 1 at June 30.** In this way we will at least do our bit to halt the decline with this modest target.



## Potential Donation

A message from Trevor Pang of Rotary Richmond:

I have a potential donor who is considering a one-off donation to a Rotary Alzheimer Project.

Is there a Club currently working in this field?

If so, please contact Trevor to advance this.

Email: [tpang@premiertrading.com.au](mailto:tpang@premiertrading.com.au)



Do you love Celtic Music? Would you like to celebrate St Patrick's Day in style?

Here is your opportunity at the Celtic Music Festival held at The Mission to Seafarers.

More information and how to book is here.

Proceeds will go to The Rotary Foundation.

**The Rotary  
International President  
Gordon McInally,  
will be in Victoria in  
June!**



*Join us for lunch with  
Gordon & Heather*

Rarely does the Australian Rotary family have the opportunity to meet the Rotary International President and hear him first hand. Please consider this invitation in context of a fantastic opportunity being afforded to all of us. Think about getting a group together and coming along to show some Aussie support from our Districts.

Where: RACV Cape Scheck Conference Centre

When: Sunday 2nd June, 12:00 pm

Cost: \$145.00 - 3 course meal,  
including welcome drink, then drinks at bar prices

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1166596>

Book early to avoid disappointment, strictly limited spaces



Register for the Lunch Here.

Register for the Symposium Here.

## Let's talk about Elephants...

A contemporary and practical understanding of current-day mental health conditions and navigating through recognition, understanding, and support of those around us.

A one-day mental health and wellbeing symposium;

Leaders looking after self and others.

Full-day event Frankston Arts Centre

Monday 3 June

Booking through Trybooking

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1166608>

Cost \$85.00 pp

Includes morning, and afternoon teas and Lunch



Special guest:

Rotary International President

Gordon McInally will talk about his personal story and how Rotary is working to support mental health outcomes.





## The Rotary Leadership Institute

The Rotary Leadership Institute is an online learning opportunity, ideal for presidents-elect, new members and members who would like to explore Rotary further.

Please circulate this information to them and encourage them to register and benefit from this wonderful program, full of beneficial information.

Registrations to Jane Pennington at: [Jane.Pennington@rotary9800.org](mailto:Jane.Pennington@rotary9800.org)



## Empowering us with Rotary knowledge

Parts 1-4: Saturday 10, 17 & 24 February  
10am-11:30am via Zoom

To book, email: [jane.pennington@rotary9800.org](mailto:jane.pennington@rotary9800.org)

*Spaces are limited so book your space asap*



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD

## SAVE THE DATE: FORMER AMBASSADOR TO US

As President of Rotary Melbourne, I am pleased to inform you that most recent former Australian Ambassador to the USA, The Hon Arthur Sinodinos AO, will be delivering the

prestigious 2024 Angus Mitchell Oration. Given global flashpoints in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Asia and the expertise of our speaker, the oration will be highly informative and topical.

In attendance will be leading members of our business, diplomatic, charitable and Rotary community. The previous oration was delivered last year by former Prime Minister The Hon John Howard OM AC. The event was sold out well in advance.

Please save the date in your calendar as we expect this event will also sell out quickly. We expect booking to open on 24 January via our website.

I look forward to seeing you at the Angus Mitchell Oration.

Cheers,  
Dr. Chris Sotiropoulos  
President 2023-24

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Wednesday 21st February 2024**



**2024 Angus Mitchell Oration**  
**The Hon Arthur Sinodinos AO**  
Former Australian Ambassador to USA  
12.45-2pm at Sofitel on Collins

**Rotary**  
Melbourne  
[rotaryclubofmelbourne.org.au](http://rotaryclubofmelbourne.org.au)

## SUSIE'S SHELVES ARE A LITTLE EMPTY





Due to a strong demand for household goods by the support agencies who are working with the Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network (RIMERN), there is an **immediate need for small electrical appliances e.g. toasters, kettles, microwaves, irons, fans, heaters and televisions** to restock the warehouse.

If your family or friends have one or more of these items that you are able to donate, please contact Rohan Williams at [rdwrcm@gmail.com](mailto:rdwrcm@gmail.com) to arrange for collection.

Thank you to Tom Callander, Peter & Sue Duras and Elias Lebbos who have recently donated items to RIMERN and Alan Seale and Roger Thornton who are currently making small furniture items.

---

## GALLERY



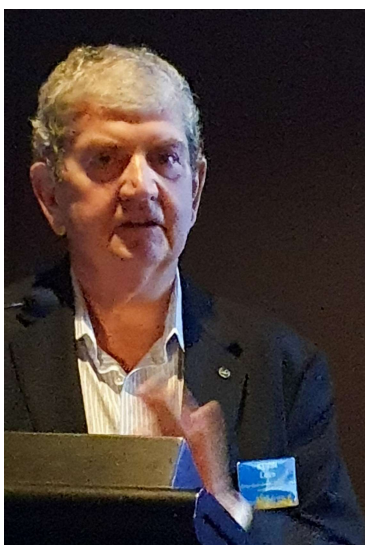
Group Meeting



Chair Kerrie Hicks



Induction of Fleur  
Maidment



Guest speaker Kevin Love



Patricia Wislon, Belonging  
Matters



Lorraine & Veronica





Lunch under the trees



Doug, Pamela & Sue



Liz, Tessa & Leonie



Michelle, Alan & Nev1