

From the President



Whilst connecting via Zoom may not be everyone's preference it does allow us all to do things differently and extend our connections. Such was the case last Wednesday evening when we our guests included Rebecca Nichols (Environmental officer at Stonnington City Council) and Jenny La Marca (President, RC Malvern) to hear a great presentation by Tony Rinaudo of World Vision. Tony gave us a compelling explanation of his work in reforestation, and a bit of a tour of some of the places he has worked since leaving Myrtleford.

This week Martin van Elst (President, RC Bairnsdale) will be joining us to discuss East Gippsland Fire Aid. Five East Gippsland Clubs, including the two Clubs in Bairnsdale, are collectively working to provide fire aid in various ways. I met Martin earlier this year through our District President's training program, and I am looking forward to welcoming him to our upcoming meeting.

On the same theme, the Mayor and CEO of Stonnington Council have reached out to our Cluster, being Prahran, Malvern, Toorak and ourselves, seeking to discuss possible involvement in a bush fire relief initiative of Council. A joint meeting has been arranged for 31 July to share information about this opportunity, and more details of this will be circulated next week.

The Cluster President's met with AG Rosemary Waghorne last week and despite our present circumstances it is apparent that each Club is active and earnestly looking for new projects. RC Prahran are auspicing Rotary Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network (RIMERN) and have approached us and some 20 other Rotary Clubs to be founding members. RIMERN is intended to operate in a similar way to WERN, which supports the western suburbs of Melbourne, and another ERN covering the bayside suburbs. More details have been

requested to enable further discussion amongst ourselves.

Our online shop has been promoted to the Cluster and Alick is keen to connect with the Cluster fund raising chairs to make more of this innovative platform.

Please remember to "share the Chair" and let us know what date suits you to promote variety in our meetings.

Rotary Chadstone East Malvern Zoom Meeting – each Wednesday.

Topic: RCEM Weekly Meeting
6:15pm for 6:30pm

<https://zoom.us/j/91258547029> - simply click on this link and it will take you to the Zoom Meeting

*If you wish to **join** a zoom meeting from your zoom account, then the details are as follows:*

Meeting ID: 912 5854 7029

Password: 027220

By phone: 03 7018 2005
Meeting ID: 912 5854 7029
Password: 027220

Upcoming Speakers

Wednesday 29th July

Martin van Elst – President RC Bairnsdale



Gippsland Bushfire relief update

The five Rotary Clubs of East Gippsland have come together, forming a Fire Aid Committee, in preference to each club working on their own with possible double up. We are a greater force as one collective.

100% of all funds raised will be used to benefit the East Gippsland Community and individuals, that have been impacted by this fire disaster, through no fault of their own.

Money raised will be divided into the following categories;

1. Hay/Fodder/ fencing, many landowners have insurance for their fencing and only require volunteers to assist with cleaning of fence lines. Others will require hay / fodder for their livestock, this we are presently assisting with.

2. Money vouchers, to allow people to purchase new items they can determine for themselves within the local area, returning dignity and independence to the survivors. A knock- on effect to the local retailers will occur, placing money into local businesses which have been hit hard by the loss of the peak holiday season trading.

3. There is also an emergency fund, this is for items that sit outside the above two categories and are deemed to be having a great impact on a community or a family and need urgent action e.g. fuel for a truck load of hay / fodder to be transported into the area.

4. Community BBQ's and working Bee's will be organised to assist and support small communities to reconnect with neighbours that may have had to find temporary accommodation outside their local area & support network.

Wednesday 5th August

RCEM Alumni Night

August is Membership night and Paul is proposing we hold an Alumni night to reconnect with past members and Friends of RCEM.

We will be giving a brief update on our plans in each of the Avenues of Service Youth, Community, International, Fundraising & Membership

Plus - some excellent fellowship with good friends!

Wednesday 12th August
Stonnington Cluster Meeting
RC Prahran Hosts
Bevan Warner – Launch Housing

Wednesday 19th August
Richard Elkington
Victorian Regional Development

RCEM Online Shop

<https://rccem-onlineshop.square.site/>

Free delivery to all RCEM Members and within 10km of Matthew Flinders!

All funds raised at the RCEM On-line shop are going into the service account where they can be used for future projects!

Volunteers wanted to sew re-usable masks for sale at the RCEM Online shop. If you or someone you know can make masks for us, please let Alick or Tracey know.



We can provide a pattern and instructions, plus materials if required.

Speaking of Tracey



Tracey has either been back in hospital getting her shoulder fixed, or she keeps falling over and now needs a “this way up” sign affixed. Get well soon Tracey!

What’s a RIMERN?



Rotary Prahran, as it’s Centenary of Rotary in Australia project, is auspicing the establishment of:

ROTARY INNER MELBOURNE EMERGENCY RELIEF NETWORK

an Emergency Relief Network (ERN) to complement WERN in the western suburbs, EERN in the east and the new BERN in the Bayside area.

This network of Emergency Relief agencies supplies much needed furniture, appliances & household essentials for families in need, and until now, the inner Melbourne area has been missed.

RIMERN will offer the same services as WERN & EERN, i.e. emergency relief and assistance through supplying good quality second-hand furniture, electronic and whitegoods, to people in need due to homelessness, mental health, family violence, refugee, fire or flood situations.

The people assisted are those who have been identified to have an urgent need for material aid as a result of experiencing trauma or loss, where they have a need to move or perhaps cannot afford basic living requirements, where they are struggling to buy essentials such as furniture and other household goods.

RIMERN hopes that all the Rotary Clubs in the inner metropolitan area will become foundation partners.

Why become part of RIMERN?

- RIMERN will be the **ONLY** *Rotary branded* emergency relief network service,

operated solely by Rotary Clubs.

- RIMERN provides a meaningful opportunity for Rotary Clubs to build service relationships with local providers from Councils, Community Health Services & other support agencies offering tangible support to local families in crisis.
- Ground floor opportunities for members to get involved & volunteer on many levels, from in the warehouse, through to logistics, administration, fundraising, sponsorships, relationship management with agencies using the service & more.
- RIMERN will become to the local community what Donations In Kind is to overseas projects and as such a great way to provide practical help to local families in need.
- Large scale, joint fundraising activities across all foundation partner Clubs to support RIMERN will build impact & foster inter-club fellowship.

How to become a RIMERN foundation Club

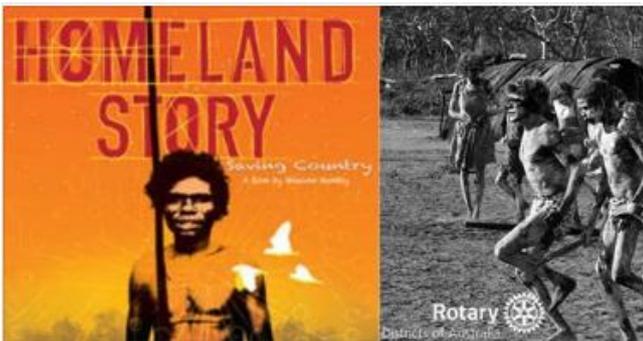
We urgently need premises and in our area of operations rents are expensive, so can your Club commit \$3,000 or more to support year 1 operations?

With more Clubs on board we’ll apply for a matching District 9800 Grant and add a further \$9,000 towards rent, truck, equipment & other overheads.

We are inviting Clubs to be part of the long- term story of RIMERN, with annual support if needed, although the operations of the other ERNs show that with careful management Rotary Club rental support may not be needed over the long term.



End Trachoma



From 1974, Dr Neville White, a biological anthropologist, spent part of each year on the Homeland, responding to the community's request to resist the threat of mining license claims.

HOMELAND STORY is a moving portrait of a resilient and determined community facing the challenges of maintaining their Donydji Homeland and preserving their vibrant culture.

Between Friday 3 July 2020 7:30 PM and Friday 31 July 2020 7:30 PM

<https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=627123&>

Fundraising

In addition to the RCEM Online shop <https://rccem-onlineshop.square.site/> (in case you missed it!) that will soon be selling fabulous re-useable and washable facemasks! we have some other plans cooking away in the background.

Remember the dreaded raffle!? What if you didn't have to sit at Chadstone round the clock to sell tickets? We are investigating an **online raffle** platform (\$39 per raffle, 5.5% charged on credit card sales, cash sales no charge) that would enable

us to run a raffle campaign. We have some Bunnings vouchers in hand one or two of which could make up first prize. We also have the goodies collected for the Family Fun Day silent auction and hampers that could be good 2nd and 3rd prizes. Of course, if some generous soul wants to donate an absolutely cracking first prize for us to promote, we are keen to hear all about it.

Next, we have the proposed RCEM Sleepout in support of Avalon, (and potentially RIMERN?).

Tentatively scheduled for Friday 27th November this would see us in our sleeping bags and mats roughing it for one night at a suitable location. Hopefully this is something we can do together, but it is also conceptually possible to do it at many locations (your backyard, deck, patio or balcony for instance) so long as we have lots of photos and comments to run on social media in the lead up to, and during the event.

Plus... BBQ's (one day – sigh) and a Market or two or three, and perhaps a Family Fun Day – or another large-scale community focussed event in Central Park... more on that one later!

Save the Date

Please note the dates in your diary and we will confirm as we get closer.

Wednesday 12th August – Stonnington Cluster Combined Meeting – Speaker Bevan Warner CEO of Launch Housing.

Sunday 13th September – National Tree Planting Day with City of Stonnington & Friends of Gardiners Creek.

Friday 13th November – Cambodia Gala Dinner at Kooyong Tennis Club.

Friday 27th November – the inaugural RCEM sleepout in support of the Avalon Centre.