



March Bulletin 2022

Dear Rotarians,

Hope the New Year is treating you well and you are all keeping safe.

It has been an enthusiastic start to the year with Rodney's impeccable work being recognised by the Maribyrnong Council at the 2022 Civic Awards as the Citizen of the Year. Many congratulations to Rodney and his family on this fantastic achievement.

On a personal note, I have some exciting news to share with you. I have been successful in securing a teaching job in Dubbo, NSW. It is a secondary school (catholic) and I am still finding my way around the NSW education system as well as living regional. People are wonderful and that has really been helpful.

This commitment of mine, unfortunately means that I will be no longer able to continue with Footscray Club. As much as I want to hold onto it, I am afraid I won't be able to fully dedicate myself to it.

I am always here and look forward to catching up with you all when I visit Melbourne. I have had the pleasure of meeting some Rotarians out here. But I am taking my time with all the new changes. Hopefully, I can make some contributions here as well :)

I want to thank you all for your warm, kind and meaningful friendship that made me feel like I belonged and made Melbourne/Footscray my home.

I am available via email on [officialpragyakapil@gmail.com](mailto:officialpragyakapil@gmail.com) and my contact number is 0451 159 998.

Hope you enjoy the bulletin and the DG's visit on 3rd March goes well :)

Pragya

Editor

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## The President's column

January and February have slipped by,

"Like the snow falls in the river,

A moment white, then melts forever."

This Rotary year also seems to be melting away. Further, the Covid-enforced lockdowns have robbed us of many activities, perhaps to the relief of the program director and some committees. But now we have a short sprint to the end.

Recent meetings have been well-attended and lively. A 70% attendance is much healthier than a 30% attendance. I am in awe of members like Kevin Field who come from long distances to contribute to fellowship. To share in lively chatter is to inhale the dynamism of our club.

There were times at Croatia House when I felt apologetic about turning up to ruin the peace of the room and finding the few brave souls who turned up regularly.

In 2022 we've had three good meetings with great speakers, the highest profile one being Dr Mukesh Haikerwal on January 20. He told us probably more than we'll ever read in the papers about behind the scenes in managing the COVID pandemic. Like generals who learn how to fight past battles, perhaps future politicians and bureaucrats will learn how to fight the next pandemic by seeing where we went wrong this time.

At the first meeting in February, Tim Owens of [Nextgenjobs.org.au](http://Nextgenjobs.org.au) spoke about the placement of apprentices and giving young people their first steps in making careers. This was a valuable background and promo for the following meeting at which the Evan Phillips Apprenticeship Achievement Award was given. This award commemorates a revered former member of our club who lived a life of Service above Self. Evan occupied just about every position in the club but was for many years a quiet and efficient secretary. Come to think of it, our club has been blessed by a series of these including the incumbent secretary Rodney Johnstone.

The Evan Phillips Award is worth \$2500 and we are grateful and honored that Evan's daughter, Judi Pepi, has donated funds to this year's award. The winner was Jacob Korparic who works at Brimbank Council's heavy vehicle maintenance department. He is a young man who has overcome a lot in his short life and fortunately his training involves recognition that internal combustion engines are giving way to electric ones. At least he wasn't learning to be a saddler or stirrup maker.

The main speaker for the second meeting was Yvonne Farquharson, a school teacher by training, who has developed a program to educate young children about the function and health of kidneys and especially the link between kidneys and fizzy drinks in the diet which can lead ultimately to type 2 Diabetes. Lessons are age appropriate and she visits many schools delivering the message.

I hope that this reaches you before the visit to our club by District Governor, Dale Hoy. You may be encouraged to turn up and give your opinion about anything at all. Let a hundred flowers bloom, as has been said. DG visits are an exchange between a club and its district; a lively one I hope. Numerically we may be smaller than before but our pulse beats strongly and we still engage with our community.

To return to the opening simile, let's enjoy and commit fully to the remaining months, the fellowship of meetings, the functions like our Golf Day (March 25), and the food of social gatherings.

We are blessed by peace in this country; let's use it to enrich the lives of others and take satisfaction from that.

Jamie

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## Citizen of the Year, Rodney Johnstone

For ten years, Rodney has been instrumental in supporting a number of community-based organizations that focus on giving back to the Maribyrnong community.

As President of the Footscray Hockey Club since 2014, Rodney has been at the forefront of creating a culture of inclusion and gender equity. He has worked tirelessly to promote a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment that embraces and supports everyone to play the game they love.

<https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Community/Community-and-Cultural-celebrations/Civic-Awards/2022-Civic-Awards>

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## Footscray Art Prize 2023

We had our first meeting for the Footscray Art Prize last Tuesday.

Philip and Suzanne will be the Rotary Representatives for the 2023 Arts Prize. Maria will be president when the Footscray Arts Prize and the Footscray Rotary Arts Prize Dinner take place. The Arts Prize will be announced on late May, and the finalists will have their work displayed for about 2 months.

The junior Arts Prize finalists will have their work displayed for a month.

The Footscray Rotary dinner will occur on 17th June 2023.

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## Melbourne Convention Host Hospitality night

Monday 29th May 2023 is the Melbourne Convention Host Hospitality night

Rotarians who are registered for the Convention can apply to host between 4 and 8 international and interstate guests in their home for dinner. Priority for hosting will be given to Registered Convention attendees but non-attendee Rotarians are also welcome to apply.

It is the responsibility of the Hosts to arrange transport for all their guests to and from your home. It is for this reason that we ask that only Rotarians who live within an approximate 15 km radius of the CBD should apply. Pickups will be from 6 p.m. unless otherwise agreed with guests.

<https://rotarymelbourne2023.org/home-hospitality>

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## Supporting Doctors, Nurses And Health Care Staff to show support during this time of crises, by offering a coffee to say “THANK YOU

Rotary Club of Keilor with support from:

- Essendon North Rotary Club
- Essendon Rotary Club
- Footscray Rotary Club
- Keilor East Rotary Club.
- Airport West Uniting Church
- Weda Partners
- Rotarians and friends of Rotary

Raised \$3150 for the Rotary Project ***“Supporting Doctors, Nurses And Health Care Staff to show support during this time of crises, by offering a coffee to say “THANK YOU”***

The donations were greatly appreciated by staff at Western Health, which were used at their Christmas celebration when the Doctors, Nurses and Health Care staff were given a cup of coffee and a doughnut in recognition of their untiring work during the Covid-19 crisis. Rotary was advised that while staff at Western Health are struggling to cope, they will remember the kind thoughts and generosity behind that last cup of coffee.

Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions the staff are no longer to meet together to have a cup of coffee.

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## Funds available for District Grants!

Last year, twenty-five (25) projects were approved for District Grant funding and eighteen (18) scholarships for \$1000 each were given to clubs for use by Year 11 - 12 students. This year we will have USD70,000 (i.e. AUD99,000) in our Block Grant to fund District Grants such as these.

However, so far in the first half of this Rotary year, applications for grants have been surprisingly low. Only two District Grants totaling AUD5000 have been approved and thirteen (13) scholarships have been awarded.

[Read more...](#)

## January to March Birthdays!

Happy Birthday!

20th Feb - Pragya Kapil

24th Feb - Kevin Field

19th March - Jamie Robertson

### Next meeting - 3rd March

March 3, 2022, 6:30 pm to March 3, 2022, 8:30 pm

Our next meeting on Thursday 3rd March will be the annual visit of DG Dale Hoy.

This is an important visit so all members are requested to attend for dinner at The Plough.

[Read More...](#)



### Rotary Flemington Kensington 35th birthday

March 5, 2022, 6:30 pm to March 5, 2022, 9:00 pm

Rotary Flemington Kensington 35th birthday

The Mercure Hotel

Saturday, 5 Mar 2022

RSVP: [Lillico2009@gmail.com](mailto:Lillico2009@gmail.com)

[Read More...](#)



### 2022 Charity Golf Day

March 25, 2022, 7:30 am to March 25, 2022, 2:00 pm

Club 2022 Charity Golf Day

Friday 25th March

Sanctuary Lakes Golf Club.

For full details of registration prizes and sponsor packages

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/fvnyv5p8vcyc9r/Rotary%20Golf%20Day%20Invitation%20-%202022.pdf?dl=0>

[Read More...](#)

