



This edition of the Bulletin includes messages from our outgoing President, Maria Silber and also from incoming President Bob Newman.

At the Changeover Dinner this Thursday we will have an opportunity to thank Maria and welcome Bob to his second term as President.

There is also news of the recent Rotary International Convention and related events.

You will also see a progress report on fundraising for the *Horn of Africa Project* and news that at District Changeover the club received a "People in Action Award", recognising this project ably led by Jama.

Please take note of the *save the date* notice for the Footscray Art Prize Dinner.

Graeme

Dont forget to click "read more" to view the complete item.

President's Report June

The year has gone very quickly and there is always more that you wish that could have been accomplished. However I think we can look back on our achievements and know that we have made a difference in the lives of many people especially in the areas of education and health.

It has been a year touched with sadness with the passing of PDG Lawrence Atley and Sika Kerry. The death of Diane McGrath was an enormous shock to all in the club and she is sadly missed at our meetings. Our thoughts are still with Peter as he learns to live without his Diane.

I look forward to the coming year with Bob Newman as the incoming president. We already have major projects underway with the Footscray Art Prize Dinner to be held on Saturday 5th August and the online fundraising for the Horn of Africa Project already showing great success. The cost for sending the containers of medical equipment will be reached within the next few weeks. Donations can be made at <https://chuffed.org/project/arwnegcuis4u7hl>.

Our next event is our Changeover Night at the Yarraville Club on Thursday 29th June and I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Incoming President - Bob Newman

May I start by paying tribute to Maria Silber for the sterling job she has done over the last year as Club President and also as Club Secretary over the past few months after the tragic loss of Dianne Mc Grath. She has also agreed to carry on as Secretary in the new Rotary year.

The team is in place for the new year with no new faces, as yet we do not have a President Elect for 2024 -25 which is a major concern for the ongoing viability of the club.

Our flagship project for the year will be The Horn of Africa Project led by Jama Farah which provides medical equipment such as dialysis machines and cardiac monitors to under resourced hospitals in this part of Africa. Jama has been able to source this preloved equipment from several large Melbourne hospitals and with the help of DIK we hope to fund shipment of containers to East Africa.

Our Youth programme will again be active led by Suzanne Zammit .We would hope to sponsor young students to attend RYLA and RYPEN programmes .

The Rotary Youth Exchange Programme may also restart in 2024 and we plan to sponsor an outbound student . Incoming students may also arrive in January or July next year although our ability to host students is a problem due to the age demographic of our club.

Foundation: we will again commit to an annual donation to Rotary Foundation of \$3000 and a contribution to Polio Plus of \$1000. We hope to continue the Year 11/12 Scholarship for a student at Footscray High School. We hope to apply to District for a grant to help fund the Horn of Africa Project via DIK.

Vocation Service: we plan to continue the Evan Phillips Scholarship for a trainee apprentice and also support Manboran Awards for Disability Service.

Challenges: the major challenge remains membership which has fallen by more than 30% over the past 10 years for us like most clubs in the District and across the Western World.

Fundraising: we hope to again stage a Golf Day in the first quarter of the year as our major fundraising event.

R W Newman

Horn of Africa Project

The "Horn of Africa Project" is progressing well.

As at June the 27th \$21000 has been raised.

These funds will be used to ship donations of quality medical equipment received from major health services across Melbourne. To ship three containers of this equipment to Africa, \$45000 needs to be raised.

Donate now and support this project by clicking on link below.

<https://chuffed.org/project/arwnegcuis4u7hl>

District Changeover Award

At District Changeover the club received a "People of Action Award" for the *Horn of Africa Project*. All credit to Jama Farah for his outstanding work shipping recycled medical equipment to Africa.

Meeting June 1st

Dr Akram Abdulahi was our speaker on the 1st June.

Akram grew up in Melbourne, studied dentistry at Melbourne University and now works at dental practices and Kensington.

Akram spoke about the Hararian Community in Melbourne and its efforts in supporting their youth to ensure that they have strong connections to their own community and have positive role models..

The Hararian Community built a community centre in Mt Cottrell

"Our primary goal is to support the integration of migrant families, and our wider community members into Australian society whilst upholding traditions, and cultural identities. We focus on social cohesion and integration through education programs, and social activities that run throughout the year for diverse ages." <https://www.hararian.org/new-page>

Akram spoke of the positive influence the community has had with their young people having success through the education system and avoiding trouble and entering the youth justice system.



Two dentists Dr Akram Abdulahi and Dr Jamie Robertson

June 15th Meeting

Committee Chairs reported back on achievements over the year. These achievements were reported throughout the year but when you hear about the achievements of the club as a total it makes you realise that we have had a big impact in improving the lives of people in our local community as well international communities.

The only speaker on the night who wasn't a Footscray Rotarian was Leo Li who we sent to the Rotary Youth Leadership Program in 2016. It was great to have him attend our meeting and to hear about his life since completing RYLA. Leo has volunteered to help out at our fund-raising activities, so we look forward to seeing him again very soon and also to seeing him at one of our regular meetings.

Footscray Art Prize Dinner

August 5, 2023, 5:30 pm to August 5, 2023, 11:00 pm

SAVE THE DATE



Beginning at the Footscray Community Art Centre at 5.30pm with a viewing of the short listed entries to the Prize and light refreshments, the night will continue at Croatia House for dinner, dancing and an auction. Start planning: bring your friends and book a table of 10. Cost \$90/head.



[Read More...](#)

RICON 2023

The Rotary International Convention was held in Melbourne May 27th-31st. Among the 14000 registrants from 120 countries with a number of our club members attending. The main sessions were held at Rod Laver Arena with the breakout sessions and House of Friendship at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre (Jeff's Shed).

The Main sessions were spectacular with inspiring presentations, updates on major projects (Polio Plus) and entertainment.

Much information was shared at the breakout sessions and at the House of Friendship the opportunity to network with people from around the world doing wonderful projects.

Jama met up with club members and networked with the bee project.



Our club was involved in a host event with other clubs in the cluster and supported the sailing adventure associated with RICON. See separate articles.

RICON Hospitality Event

RICON Hospitality Event – Sylvie Paladino

The Clocktower in Moonee Ponds was filled with Rotarians ready for a fabulous night of entertainment and food as our cluster clubs hosted Rotarians from around the world. Sylvie Paladino was in great form and entertained the audience with stories about her life as well as being a wonderful singer. The musical entertainment concluded with the Australian Women's Choir singing "I am Australian".



The feedback from guests was very positive with a good balance of entertainment, time to mingle and refreshments. The planning committee extend their thanks to Susan Palmer, Graeme Thompson and Suzanne Zammit for their volunteering on the night.



Suzanne and Maria

Cluster Presidents with Sylvie

Youth Sailing Project

The Rotary Youth Sailing Challenge provided a once in a lifetime opportunity for young people to experience an amazing five days at sea. Our club, along with Echuca Rotary supported one of these 24 students to participate in this exciting adventure, sailing from Melbourne to Adelaide. Rodney and Maria also hosted 4 of the voyagers when they arrived from South Australia.



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