



Rotarians and friends

There is plenty of information in this Bulletin:

- News of our recent successful Dinner Dance and auction associated with the Footscray Art Prize.
- Jama Farah has provided a detailed report on the "Horn of Africa" project.
- Maria Silber has reported on the Timor Leste school project initiated by the Rotary Club of Flemington/Kensington but supported by our club.

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

Graeme

Editor

President's Report August

The major event for the Club this month has been the **Footscray Art Prize Dinner /Dance** held at Croatia House on Saturday August 5. The success of this event was due to a big effort by the organisers Phillip Caruso and Suzanne Zammit with valuable assistance from Maria Silber, Stephen Palmer [MC] and Angus Scott – Walker [Auctioneer]. Although financials are still to be finalised we expect the event to be a successful fund raiser for the Club.

Jama Farah [International Committee chair] remains active in acquiring *preloved* medical equipment for shipment to Ethiopia as part of the **Horn of Africa Project**. A further container has been loaded in the past couple of weeks for shipment. This project will be the flagship project for our club in this Rotary Year.

Regionalisation. We will soon receive information from District about this pilot project which looks at the reorganisation of the administration structure of Rotary on the world stage. The plan is due for implementation from July 2024 and nominations for election to the new Regional Council will be called for in September.

Board Meeting. At our recent Board meeting on Aug 17 we decided to support the Greek Street Art Project "Footscray's Hidden Hellenism with a donation of \$1000 which will give us Signage rights close to The Bike Shed.

DG Visit. Please note that DG Ron Payne will make his visit to us at our regular meeting on Thursday November 2.

I will be absent from club meetings in September on conference and annual leave during this time the club meetings will be in the capable hands of Maria and Jamie.

Cheers

Bob

Next Meeting

September 7, 2023, 6:30 pm to September 7, 2023, 8:30 pm

Next meeting Thursday September 7th 6.30 at Plough Hotel, 333 Barkly St Footscray.
Speaker: Robert Irvine.



Robert is a member of **Friends of Organ Pipes** and will talk about the care and maintenance of the park.

RSVP to Maria Silber

[Read More...](#)

Upcoming Meeting

September 21, 2023, 6:30 pm to September 21, 2023, 8:30 pm

Next meeting Thursday September 20th 6.30 at Plough Hotel, 333 Barkly St Footscray.
Speaker: Lloyd O'Brien from "Somebody's Daughter".



Somebody's Daughter is a project which has grown from an in-prison activity to improve the self-esteem and vocabulary of female prisoners in Victoria, to one of supporting women on their release from prison and to coaching vulnerable youth in life-skills to try to prevent them falling into crime and the Justice system.

RSVP to Maria Silber

[Read More...](#)

August Speakers

Our fellow Rotarian, PP Jamie Robertson spoke at our meeting on August 3rd about his recent trip to Scotland. Accompanied by his son and daughter, they explored important historical castles and ruins and Jamie was also able to catch up with a couple of his cousins.

At the meeting on August 17th Rotarian Catherine Eagleson spoke about her work as a "wordsmith" creating word puzzles. She created a business "Clue Detective Puzzle Agency" producing online puzzles to improve mental health, particularly relieving anxiety, and also helping patients with dementia. Having suffered from mental health issues in the past, Catherine is now heavily involved in the Rotary Health Foundation, supporting mental health research.



Fred Madden

On Sunday 6th August Fred Maddern celebrated the 60th Anniversary of being member of the Footscray Park Bowling Club.

An afternoon tea was attended by friends and fellow club members to mark the occasion. Fred was presented with a blazer to acknowledge his great contribution of 40 years on the committee and 12 years as president. He is a life member and has a bowling green named after him.

Timor Leste School Project - a long journey

Students from Kensington Primary School held fund raisers to buy stationery items for students in a remote area of Timor Leste. The school is Liaruca Elementary and Junior High school. What a journey it has been. Timor Leste is only 686kms from Darwin. The supplies were packaged up before Christmas and dropped off at DIK to be included in the next container going to Dili. The container left Australia on the 28th February and was expected around the 28th March and on the 5th April it was in harbour awaiting release.



Liaruca is inaccessible during the rainy season as the roads are in poor condition and very dangerous. An attempt was made on the 3rd July to deliver the supplies but it had to be abandoned due heavy rain. On Tuesday 1st August after two consecutive weeks without rain the stationery was delivered and the pictures show how welcome the donation from the children of Kensington Primary School is to this community. Congratulations to the Principle Bridget McLoughlin and her students for their donation and effort.



Maria Silber coordinated collection of contributions by Footscray Rotarians, to this project.

Footscray Art Prize - Dinner Dance/Auction

The Rotary Club of Footscray hosted the 2023 Footscray Art Prize Dinner Dance on August 5th, at Croatia House following the exhibition of the artists' entries at Footscray Arts Community and a review of the exhibition by Bernadette Fitzgerald, Senior Producer at Footscray Community Arts. Daniel Santangeli, Artistic Director & Co-CEO was our after dinner speaker. Bernadette and Daniel - pictured below.



Both of these events were very well attended and the Club should be complemented for hosting to such a high standard during this biannual event.

Apart from the financial return for the club, as facilitator of an important community event the club gains much in the community.

These events do not occur without the input of so many club members including many who attended with friends and family. Rodney Johnstone was the winner of the member with the most guests competition. Stephen Palmer, our MC, and Angus Scott-Walker, our Auctioneer, guided us happily through the night.



The support of everyone who donated wonderful items for the live and silent auctions is acknowledged, with some bargains were taken home!

The night was the culmination of one year's work by Suzanne Zammit. Suzanne is a dogged doer who attended and contributed to each of the monthly Art Prize Committee meetings (a volunteer amongst paid staff of Council, Victoria University and Footscray Arts) and we congratulate her for her outstanding effort.

Thanks also to Phillip Caruso for his support of Suzanne and his contributions to the dinner arrangements.

The winner of the Rotary Club awards attended the dinner with members of their families:

Primary Section, Grace Nguyen (L) and Secondary School, Jadyn Gregorio(R)



Horn of Africa Project

This has been a period full of remarkable efforts and great achievements. We have worked tirelessly to bring to fruition our goal of improving the lives of those in need around the world. In this recent period, the Horn of Africa project has been a major vehicle in delivering our successful results.

The Horn of Africa project was commissioned to provide those living in the Horn of Africa region with the resources and materials that could make a positive difference in their lives. In particular, the project aimed to provide medical equipment to local hospitals that were in dire need, and to support locals who would otherwise travel long distances to receive the basic medical care that they needed. The beneficiaries of these donated resources, which includes Jig-jiga University Sheik Hassen Yabare Referral Hospital and Harar Regional State Health Bureau Jugal General Hospital, can now boast of much improved facilities and vastly superior patient care.

Through the generous contributions and support of our community, our crowdfunding campaign has been able to raise over \$37,409, which will cover the transportation costs of the containers loaded with donated materials and equipment. We are extremely proud to note that the first container has already been loaded and sent out for transport, and should reach its destination of Berbera Port in early October.

While we have enjoyed enormous support from far and wide, we would like to give special thanks to some contributors.

Western Health, which has generously donated an abundance of vital equipment such as ICU beds, transfer trolleys, ECG machines, ultrasound machines, defibrillators, radiography systems, patient monitors, ventilators, IV holders, monitor screens, and endoscopy towers. **Austin Health**, which has generously donated dialysis equipment that is sorely needed in the smaller communities of the Horn of Africa region. **Baker Heart & Diabetes Institute**, with which we have entered into an amicable agreement to lend an Echo machine donated to us for their vital work treating patients in Australia and they have generously donated numerous mini health monitors as a thank-you, with more hopefully to come.



The **Rotary Club of Canterbury**, which through their spectacular FORaMeal initiative has generously donated around 100,000 meal packs. **McGraw Hill**, which has generously donated multiple stacks of medical textbooks, which will no doubt provide inspiration to the multitude of students in the Horn of Africa region. Appreciation is owed to an anonymous contributor who has very generously donated a dental X-Ray machine. Finally, it would be remiss of us to fail to mention the outstanding work of the **DIK management and volunteers**, without whom we would find our task all the more difficult.

It is through the invaluable support of those who have donated their materials, resources, and time that we have been able to make such large strides to achieving our lofty goals.

We have recently been recognised with the People of Action Award for our work providing medical equipment through the Horn of Africa project. Although we have committed to selflessly work towards providing better lives for all those who are experiencing hardship and misfortune, it is still gratifying to see our efforts have been acknowledged and we hope this will provide further motivation to continue on this path we have set for ourselves.

As already mentioned, we have already sent out our first container, and we are pleased to announce that we will be loading our second container shortly. Our goal is to raise \$45,000 and load a third container of goods for dispatch to Berbera Port before the end of the year.

In summary, we have enjoyed great success in this recent period, and we hope to replicate and even improve on this phenomenal success in the coming period. No effort has been too great or too small, we owe our success to everyone involved. Once again, we would like to thank everyone for their tireless effort and generous contributions.

Jama Farah

International Chair Rotary Club of Footscray



DG Ron Paine inspecting goods prior to loading in container.

Footscray's Hidden Hellenism

The Rotary Club of Footscray club is supporting this project, which will see the installation of a Hellenic themed mural, celebrating the Greek influence in Footscray.

For details of the project click [here](#).

Rotarians are invited to attend the inauguration ceremony at 12.30pm on Sat 9th September at The Line, Yewers Footscray. Details below.



Footscray's Hidden Hellenism

mural inauguration
invitation

We invite you to join us at the official
inauguration ceremony of the
'Footscray's Hidden Hellenism' mural.

Enjoy live music, a documentary
screening, speeches and a dance
performance by the very people
incorporated in our mural.

Date: Saturday 9 September 2023

Time: 12.30 p.m.

Location: The Line, Yewers St, Footscray

We are excited to reawaken this vibrant
story with you.

RSVP by 2nd September 2023

Dean Kotsianis
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Vice-President
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