ROTARY CLUB OF PRESTON Inc.

CHARTER GRANTED 21-12-1960
PO Box 299, Preston, 3072

Meets Wednesday, 12.30pm
Darebin RSL Bell St, Preston

District Governor: Stephen O'Connell

Assistant Governor: Pat Solibakke

CLUB BULLETIN

August 28, 2024, Vol. 64, No. 9

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

President
Wayne O'Neill
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Office Bearers

Vice President: David De La Coeur
Hon. Secretary: PP Geoff McIlvenna
0418 500 031
geoff.mcilvenna@bigpond.com

Treasurer: Frank Smith
Past President: Kannan Subramanian
President Elect: YOU!

Directors/Board

Peter Peyton, Peter Gilbert, Gerry Lyons, Peter Byrne
Kannan Subramanian, Chris Shields Paul Smarrelli

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

OFFICE BEARERS & BOARD DIRECTORS

International	Youth	Vocational	Community
Director: **P Peyton** J Roose S Still E Boateng G Mogford K Agawal	**Director:** **G Lyons** E Price P Conte N Lyons	**Director: Chris Shields** C Finoccchiaro N Schaber C Verrocchi Joe Morris J McCarthy	**Dir: P Smarrelli** M Walsh D De La Coeur D Sullivan N Pinder E Price (Police Awards)
Environment & Conservation **Director:** **Peter Byrne** D De La Coeur R McCall	**Foundation** **Director:** **K Subramanian** E Price P Gilbert I Musgrove	**Membership & Retention** **Director: P Gilbert** G McIlvenna R McCall P Smarrelli	**Secretary** **G McIlvenna** **Treasurer** **F Smith** **Special Projects** **P Smarrelli**

CLUB ADMINISTRATION: Wayne O'Neill

Youth Exchange	Bulletin	Fundraising & Circus QuirkuS	Attendance	Cashiers	Programmes
E Price P Gilbert	**J McCarthy** P Peyton P Gilbert	**Chair: W O'Neill** F Smith G McIlvenna P Smarrelli	**G Mogford** G McIlvenna P Smarrelli	**P Gilbert** N Schaber G Mogford E Price P Conte M Walsh	**G Mogford** R McCall P Smarrelli P Gilbert
Family of Rotary & Club History **P Peyton** P Gilbert G McIlvenna P Smarrelli	**IT / Website / Facebook / Public Relation** **R McCall** G Lyons N Lyons	**Club History & Information** **P Peyton** P Gilbert G McIlvenna P Smarrelli	**Sergeants** **D Sullvan** D De La Coeur P Byrne	**RIMERN** **R McCall** E Price	**House** Joe Morris N Pinder D De La Coeur G Mogford G MIlvenna P Smarrelli
World Conference **P Gilbert**	**District Conference** **G McIlvenna**	**Fellowship** **E Price** P Byrne G McIlvenna	**RIMERN** **R McCall** E Price	**Birthday Cards** **G Smith**	**Welcome** **P.Peyton** Joe Morris E Price C Finocchiaro

SPEAKER LAST WEEK

GRANDMOTHERS FOR REFUGEES: Executive Member **JANET JOSS** had a very powerful story to tell in her presentation last week. Her statistics combined with the emotional and human suffering endured by refugees and asylum seekers brought many gasps from her audience. A quote from an earlier source reads: *"Grandmothers for Refugees urges the Albanese Government to end the prolonged uncertainty faced by thousands of families who have been waiting for permanent visas for over a decade. Many of these individuals, who arrived under similar conditions as those granted visas, are essential workers contributing to our society. It is time to uphold the principle of a fair go for all."*

G.4.R. is a large and growing movement that advocates for fair treatment of asylum seekers and refugees – a fundamental human right. Their membership, both female and male, is based on federal electorate boundaries. Currently members are grouped across 95 federal electorates and they meet on zoom monthly.

Essential to the workings of G.4.R. sadly is not solely an approach to politicians but also making the public aware of the cruelty and sufferings of refugees and asylum seekers, individuals and families. There are those who are 'imprisoned' in offshore places as Nauru and Indonesia. Janet spoke of thousands and many for over 10 years. Their abandonment of hope is leading to many suicides. Then there are those on bridging visas, which at times do not allow any of the normal Australian government aids.

G.4.R. is endeavouring to bring these gross deficiencies to an awareness in their electorate. It was also a loud call out to those present and Club secretaries to illustrate the Magic of Rotary.

THE FAMILY OF ROTARY

David De La Coeur 2/9

VISITORS LAST WEEK: Abdulkadir Hassan, Tony D'Souza, Jade Portrat, Suzie Britton, Ro Roberts.

Peter and Ruth McCall recently visited **ALICE SPRINGS - ULURU** for an Anaesthetists Conference. It was only for a few days but in that time fellow-travellers Peter and Ruth managed to hear so much information in the wider field. On the way home they stopped at **Docker River** in the MacDonnell Ranges, 679kms WSW of the Alice. Last Wednesday Ruth shared some of her learnings from the trip.

The indigenous people at Docker River were "*relocated*" there in the early 1900's. Ruth spoke of the need for better hearing from the people in the outback of their needs in all fields of life. The shortage of facilities and the cost of foods were "*most confronting*". Ruth's words were stunning while the panoramic beauty of the area and the artwork of the community were 'breathtaking'.

CONGRATULATIONS LIA FINOCCHIARO: After the victory last Saturday in the N.T. elections, the new Chief Minister will be non-other than **Lia Finocchiaro**!

CLUB NEWS

The Club has received a request from the ACU, Mary Mackillop Institute for Health Research. Participants are being sought, 65-80 year old males. It is for a study, which involves 5 visits to the Fitzroy lab. It is scheduled according to one's availability for exercise testing and blood and muscle biopsy sampling.

Participants will be provided with reimbursement and free exercise testing in exchange for time given. Ph. 04217 17852 or sophie.broome@acu.edu.au

SUZANNE STILL has been attending and serving with the Club for some time and only last Wednesday was she inducted as a Rotarian. Covid and other matters delayed her induction.

President Wayne welcomed her and Suzanne will serve as a member of the International Committee.

Congratulations Suzanne.

CIRCUS QUIRKUS: Organizer/presenter **President Wayne** reported another successful 2-day presentation of Circus Quirkus. With thanks to the professional performers, the 6 sessions went very well. Present at each show were 7 club members setting up accommodation and welcoming the public. The Ivanhoe Town Hall entertainment centre worked very well. President Wayne is keen to book the same venue in the coming year.

Wayne noted that fewer arrived in wheelchairs because many carers were unable to usher on weekends. Wayne will plan for weekday bookings for the future. Peter Gilbert summed up the performances acting out acrobatics, magic and comedy with *"a good time was had by all".*

BUNNINGS BARBIE : The next Barbie will be Saturday 14 September.

FOODBANK: Foodbank deliveries to the Reservoir East Neighborhood House. Truck will arrive between 10.30am and 11am; Tuesday the 27th August.

Preston monkeys enjoying their Circus Quirkus half-time break

PRESTON GARDEN CLUB: The Club has been operating for 90 years in so many ways and, at times, with the assistance of local Rotary members. To celebrate the community and to get the message out to the public, the Club is having a birthday.

Wednesday 28th August at 286 Gower Street (Preston Shire Hall), arrive 7pm and start at 7.30pm. RSVP via email by August 16th: prestongardenclub@hotmail.com

HAPPY Father's DAY

DISTRICT CONFERENCE – ALBURY 2025

Friday 11th - Sunday 13th April

PLEASE ARRANGE A REPLACEMENT IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND

Weekly Club Meeting Roster July - September 2024

	WELCOMES	CASHIERS	SERGEANT	CHAIRPERSON
Aug-28	Norm Pinder	Elaine Price & Norbet Schaber	Gerry Lyons	Gary Mogford
Sep-04	Carla Finocchiaro	Peter Gilbert & Max Walsh	Kannan Subramanian	Chris Shields
Sep-11	Suzanne Still	Norbet Schaber & Gary Mogford	Joan Roose	Peter Peyton
Sep-18	Ian Musgrove	Peter Byrne & Elaine Price	David De La Coeur	Ruth McCall
Sep-25	Kannan Subramanian	Peter Gilbert & Paul Smarrelli	Max Walsh	Peter Byrne

LIFT THE LID WALK: For Mental Health 2024. Sunday October 13th. Start from 10am onwards around Coburg Lake Reserve. Approx. 4kms. $30 adults. Kids under 15 walk free. All funds go directly to Youth Mental Health Research.

UPCOMING SPEAKER

Aug-28	Darebin Hard Rubbish Here	Jo Press and Jackie Lewis

MERRI CREEK LITTER CLEAN-UP

Saturday Aug 31st, 2-4pm
Meet: Bike/Pedestrian Bridge,
Connolly Ave, Coburg – across from DeChene Reserve

Booking essential: www.mcmc.org.au

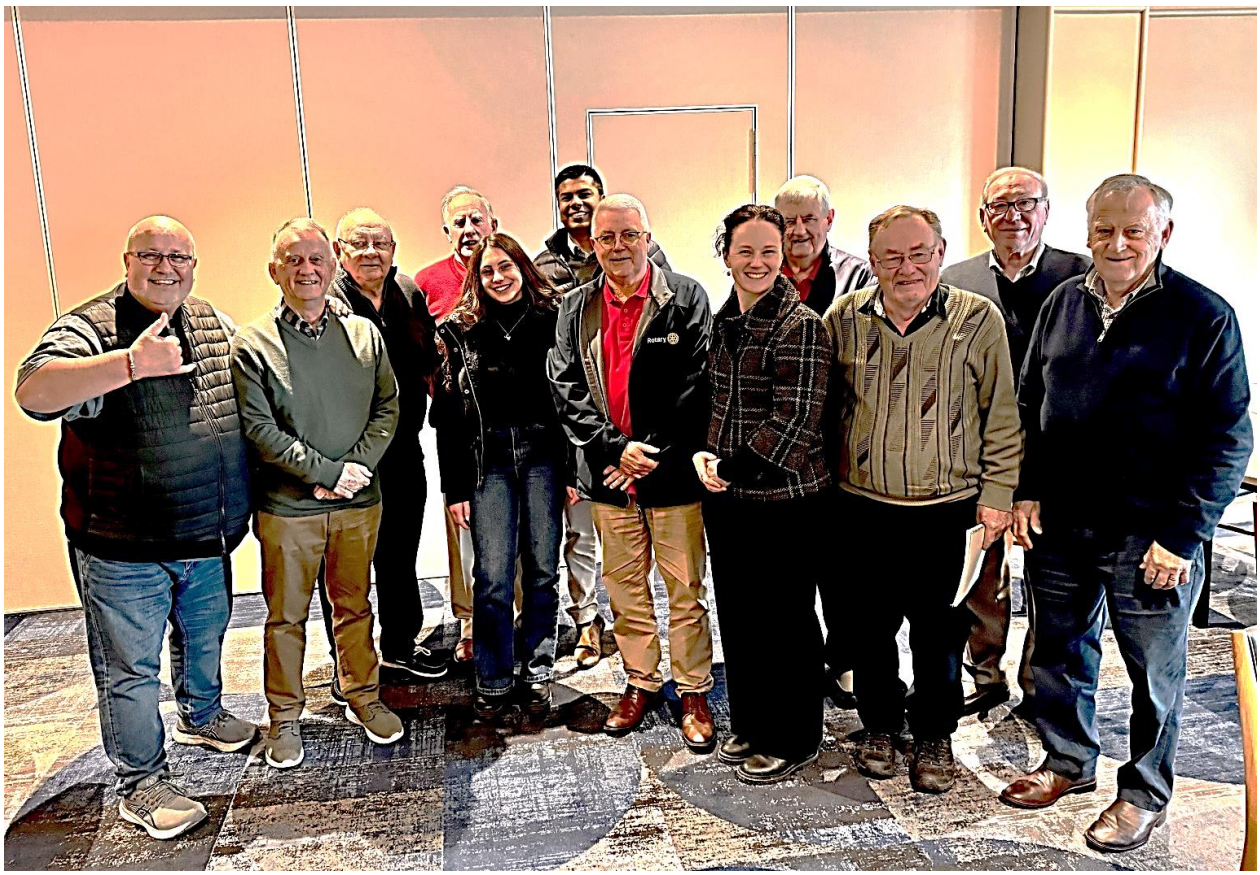
Aim: To safely remove litter from creek banks and surrounding areas and collect important Citizen Science data aimed at reducing litter.
All clean-up equipment is supplied. Please wear long pants, sturdy shoes and BYO drink bottle if desired. Merri Paddle will also talk about their work supporting the eventual re-introduction of platypuses into Merri Creek and how YOU can be involved.

AHMED KELLY IS GOING FOR GOLD!

Yes, that's the ultimate while all Prestonians are thrilled to see him competing. Ahmed starts his challenge August 30

- Mixed 4 x 50 Freestyle medley
- August 30 Men's 150m Individual Medley – September 1
- 50m Backstroke – September 2
- 50m Freestyle – September 6

Aussie! Aussie! Aussie! Oi! Oi! OI!



Exchange Student Jade Portrat and Host Parent Suzie Britton with a section of the Club Board.