



Rotary

Club of Fern Tree Gully



Chartered May 16th 1963

Weekly Bulletin

Vol 64 No 17 24th October 2024

as their funding

Co- Presidents

2024- 2025

Christine Anderson

Graeme Aspinall

District Governor

2024 - 2025

Colin Byron

Greater Dandenong / Endeavour

Hills Rotary Club

Meeting Details:

Weekly Thursday Evenings

6.00pm for 6,30pm

Venue:

Ferntree Gully Bowls Club Glenfern Rd

Ferntree Gully

Diary Dates

24th Oct Club Meeting

31st Oct Club Meeting

7th Nov Club Meeting Guest Speaker

14th Nov Group Meetings

21st Nov Club Meeting Guest Speaker

www.ferntreegullyrotary.org.au

Community Group Leader

Gus Rozychi

gusroz@hotmail.com



Presidents Message



Last week's guest speakers Trish and Brenda certainly enlightened us on

Elder Rights, a wonderful and informative presentation. (More in the scribe's report).

A huge thank you to the Rotary Club of Rowville Lysterfield on a very well executed fund raiser. The Antique Collectible Fair was extremely well organised, a mammoth effort by their club members, and proceeds going to Knox Nocturnals Youth Program. Thank you to Graeme, Martin our youth worker Kate and her mum Dianne, for helping out on the day, also to Rob Dawson for bringing along your family and Geoff Deacon from KNYP. Sorry if I missed seeing anyone else, I should mention. (it was a busy morning)

A lovely surprise on Saturday, when Kay McAloney weaved her magic and appeared at our front door bearing gifts of pinecones. Thank you, Kay.

Our craft stall at Bunnings Grand Car Park opening Saturday 9th November, will now eventuate, using the pinecones. The first night back at Nocturnals last Friday was a great success with 28 participants, and Jordan Carter assisting as a junior leader. The young people were fully engaged in several activities of getting to know each other, and team building. A fun evening with delicious homemade hamburgers for dinner and plenty of fresh fruit for supper, also two lovely Vic Police officers joining us, and chatting and getting to know the young people. A great first night back after our Winter Break.

Thank you to Fran for organising our next theatre outing, a great response from members. You all have details.

Graeme and Christine

Club Board 2024 - 2025

President	Graeme Aspinall
	Christine Anderson
Secretary	Graeme Harrison
Treasurer	Brian Mandergeddes
Community	Christine Anderson
Youth	Paul Wilson
Fundraising	Graeme Aspinall

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

THE OBJECTS OF ROTARY

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

First The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service.

Second High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society.

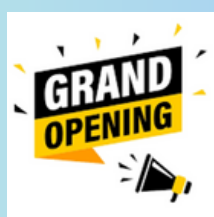
Third The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life.

Fourth The advancement of the international understanding goodwill, through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

THE FOUR WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the **truth**?
2. Is it **fair** to all concerned?
3. will it build **goodwill** and **better friendships**?
4. will it be **beneficial** to all concerned?



Bunnings are planning to celebrate the completion of their new carpark. A family event is planned for Saturday Nov 9th, 9.30am - 3.00pm. Our Club has been invited to be part of this event with a craft activity. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us.

50th ANNIVERSARY

KNOX ART SHOW

Saturday 9th and
Sunday 10th November
10 am to 4:30pm

Bendigo Bank
Community Bank
Wantina

Opening Night
Friday 8th November 7:00pm

Great artworks and photographs
Just browse or buy something you like
Churchill Waverley Golf Club
82 Bergins Road Rowville

Exhibiting Artists apply at
www.knoxartshow.org.au
Artwork is available on-line

Rotary
Baywater and Rowville—Lysterfield

Proudly supported by
Knox City Council

The Knox Art Show has been supported by a grant from the Knox City Council Community Development Fund

Co-President Christine opened the meeting by welcoming members, guest speakers Julie and Brenda, visitor Christine, and guests Jill, Joan. Kay and Margaret

Present

Co-Presidents Graeme Aspinall and Christine Anderson, Rob Dawson, John Flemming, Graeme Harrison, Joan Howard, Martin Howard, Margaret Hurst, Robert Hurst, Brian Mandergeddes, Fran Mandergeddes, Kay McAloney, Allan Tierney, Paul Wilson, visitor Christine and our guest speakers Julie Trutsch and Brenda from Elder Rights Advocacy (ERA).

Apologies

Immediate Past President Gary Braddock. Rosie Massey (in Perth at present).

Announcements

Co-President Christine told of three items of good news. Firstly MDLC (Mountains District Learning Centre) had expressed great appreciation of the club's contribution of funds towards the Men's Shed. Secondly Steve Barrington had likewise thanked the club for its contribution to Foothills Community Care. Thirdly Rotary Foundation had advised of their donation towards Knox Nocturnals – the end result of a complicated procedure that will provide a sum of \$4250 for Nocturnals.

Guest speaker

Christine then welcomed our guest speakers, Julie Trutsch and Brenda.

Julie told us of the establishment of OPAN ((old Persons' Advocacy Network) 30 years ago and its expansion to become ERA today. The scene has been much influenced by the Royal Commission into Age Care and introduction of MyCare packages. There is a social-based approach to overcome loneliness by providing opportunities for friendships and company. ERA provides both a visiting service, by which the elderly receive regular visits from a volunteer, an education program for volunteers, and advocacy services for elderly people needing help or support in getting their rightful services.

Julie explained that she was responsible for the volunteers, matching volunteers with clients and the education programs while Brenda was an advocate who represented clients. In matching clients with volunteers it was important that the parties were comfortable with each other. Volunteers needed to have police checks, referees and the prescribed training. Volunteers found their work very personally rewarding through helping others.

Brenda works alongside Julie. There are 25 advocates across Victoria, growing from only 8 a few years ago. They are independent of age care facilities. Their service is free and funded by the Federal government, and focuses on working with older people to resolve unresolved issues. Brenda's background in age care under Eastern Health and Dementia Australia gives her strong insights into systems and procedures. The service has an excellent intake team, all trained in advocacy. No referrals are needed. The start point is an expression of concern about services being provided - or not being provided. Then help is provided to "navigate the system".

Advocates work from home and there is very low staff turnover because they love their work. Working from home means also that advocates are very familiar with their localities and local services and any difficulties specific to the locality. The emergence of COVID and the associated disruption of lives highlighted the great value of the advocacy service.

Advocates support people who are having a problem with their aged care service. That might be trying to access services but having trouble with assessment, waiting times, or finding a provider. They deal with a wide range of issues, whether in care facilities or for people living at home. That might include financial advocacy (e.g. wrong bills), communication issues (English not their normal language or people who are not able to communicate, orally or in writing), errors by authorities, neglect or insensitivity in care facilities.

Continued

Elder abuse was a particularly problematical issue, including family abusers, draining of assets by family, physical abuse, emotional abuse, solitude abuse, stealing of monies. Advocates can refer cases and they ensure that the next referral is the right one – e.g. Victoria Police to do welfare checks, or follow-up of reports of unkempt gardens or occupants not seen for some days. Advocates help to access appropriate services, including house repairs such as essential electrical work.

Brenda gave some examples of a few of the many successful interventions that advocates have made but stressed they only advocate and then get the right agency or agencies involved in getting action.

Brenda and Julie provided great insights into their vital work with their inspiring presentations.

Vote of thanks to guest speakers

John Flemming proposed a vote of thanks to Julie and Brenda for the very informative and interesting presentation. John observed that most of us previously had no knowledge of Elders Rights Advocacy and their valuable work. The vote of thanks was very enthusiastically supported by all present.

Close of meeting

Christine then declared the meeting closed and we adjourned to the dining room.

Scribe- Martin Howard

Club Speaker Program

Date	Speaker	Topic	Vote of Thanks	Scribe
November 7th	Thomas Edwards	Costume Building	GA	JF
November 21st	Geoff Mason	Station Volunteer Radio Eastern 98.1 FM	MH	RH

Foothills Slice & soup Roster for 2024

6.11.2024	20.11.2024	4.12.2024
Slice	Soup	Slice
Easy Chocolate Slice	Easy Curry Carrot Soup	Lemon Slice