



**PASCOE VALE ROTARY CLUB**  
DISTRICT 9790



Strathmore  
Community Bank® Branch  
Bendigo Bank

17th December 2024



# THE PASCOE POST

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello fellow Rotarians,

Only 5 days before the Big Man in the Red Suit comes to thrill all those who have waited so impatiently to see what Santa brings. I do hope there's no credit cards being maxxed out. Of course for many others it is a time of joyous reflection and family reunion.

Our final meeting happens this week and hope to see you there. It's been a long and productive year for PVRC. My sincerest gratitude to all those who helped make it so. Without your sweat and voluntary time, our club would be be unable to achieve all that idoes.

We welcomed some new members, fried uncountable sausages, constructed school gardens, helped supply solar lighting to countries with unreliable electricity, followed the fortunes of Umoja Orphanage in Africa, sponsored

RYLA participants, shared in environmental projects and groups, funded school awards, packed, stacked, lifted and shifted donated household goods at RIMERN. The list goes on.... RIMERN is still seeking a couple more hands to do some low-key wall painting in early January at their warehouse in Brunswick.

Any takers?

Contact me via email if you can help out. Wishing you all a restful and restorative break.

Stay well, content and fulfilled.

**Heather Harris PHF**  
**President**  
**PVRC**

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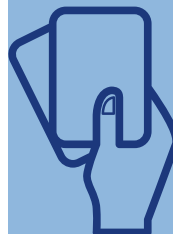
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## Quote of the week

"Keep your face  
toward the sunshine  
- and the shadows  
will fall behind you"

*Walt Whitman*



## CLUB MESSAGES AND CARDS

If you know of any current, honorary/past members of family or friends of the Rotary club who would benefit from a card or message, please get in touch with Pat Solibakke who will arrange for an appropriate card to be sent of behalf of our club.



**PASCOE VALE ROTARY CLUB**  
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**BUNNINGS**  
warehouse

Strathmore  
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# COMMUNITY NEWS



## FAWKNER PRIMARY SCHOOL GRADUATION AWARDS

As the year draws to a close, one of our pleasing traditions at Pascoe Vale Rotary Club is to present Awards to graduating Primary School students chosen by their school teachers. This year awards were given to students from Corpus Christi, Pascoe Vale North, Pascoe Vale, Pascoe Vale South, Coburg North and Fawkner primary schools.

In conjunction with the Merri-Bek Police, one of the awards is a Community award presented by the Police at the schools. Thank you to the Police for giving up their time to attend the Graduation nights.

Many thanks must go to Bob, Heather, Deborah and Oscar for giving their time to make these awards meaningful for the students.

**Pat**  
*Community Chair*

## BIRTHDAYS

**20th December**

Kim Whittle  
Dalia Murdock  
Chris Lang

A very happy birthday to you all!

## ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to **Steve and Lois Papas** on their anniversary on the 18th of December!

## *Funny Bones*

**How many Rotarians does it take to change a light bulb?**

*None—they'd rather hold a fundraiser to install solar panels!*

**Why did the Rotary Club buy a bicycle?**

*To keep up with all their spoke-n commitments!*

**Why did the Rotary Club start a bowling league?**

*Because they know how to strike up partnerships!*





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## LAST WEEK .....



**FROM LEFT: ANDREW, BRUNO, KYLA & AARON**

### LAST WEEK SPEAKERS FROM RYLA TRAINING ANDREW & KYLA

Andrew emphasized that conquering the fear of public speaking starts with recognizing that people are just people. He shared his journey of overcoming anxiety by focusing on the fact that the audience is made up of individuals, each with their own fears and insecurities. Kyla, on the other hand, overcame her self-doubt by reaffirming her positive thoughts. She devised a unique method using two wooden tablets, inscribed with encouraging words as her trigger, to remind herself of her strengths and capabilities. This practice helped her build confidence and face challenges head-on. Our Grant G. concluded that RYLA training was indeed realized and beneficial to our youth, including Andrew, Kyla, and Rosie. He highlighted how the program provided them with valuable skills, such as leadership, communication, and resilience, which are essential for their personal and professional growth. The training empowered them to overcome their fears and embrace new opportunities with confidence.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The first two men to walk on the moon, Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin were Rotarians themselves!

Merry  
Christmas

FROM THE PVRC

May this Christmas bring joy, fellowship and service, uniting all Rotarians worldwide in love, peace and hope for all!

## .....UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
19th DECEMBER 2024	LAST CLUB MEETING OF YR 2024
28 DECEMBER 2024	BARBEQUE SATURDAY TO COORDINATE WITH STEVE
26 JANUARY 2025	BARBEQUE TO COORDINATE WITH STEVE

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# DISTRICT NEWS



## Youth News

### RYLA: A Transformational Journey Worth Supporting

**"Absolutely 10 out of 10!"** That's how we would describe our experience at RYLA 2024. Stephen and I had the privilege of being involved for two days, and it was truly extraordinary. Having heard glowing endorsements from past Rotary visitors, we were eager to witness this exceptional program firsthand—and it exceeded all expectations.

**The dedicated team behind RYLA is nothing short of inspiring.** Their talent, skill, and passion for youth development result in life-changing experiences for participants. Through RYLA, young leaders gain invaluable skills in leadership, communication, and teamwork. They leave the program with newfound confidence and challenging personal goals to propel them forward.

**These participants represent the future of Rotary.**

While some might already be committed Rotarians, many are at a perfect stage to join our Rotary family. If your club sponsored a young person to attend RYLA, thank you! You've given them a gift that will last a lifetime. Now could be the perfect time to invite them to join your club or connect them with Nat Hood, our District Youth Chair, to explore further opportunities within Rotary.

Across the District, Stephen and I have seen how investing in youth energises clubs. It fosters enthusiasm, revitalizes membership, and strengthens recruitment and retention. Programs like RYLA create a ripple effect of positivity—not just for participants, but for the clubs and communities that support them.

**We need your help to sustain this incredible program.**

The continued success of RYLA depends on financial contributions and support from clubs. To ensure RYLA thrives, perhaps considering creating partnerships with industry groups might be helpful. These collaborations are a win-win: they help fund RYLA participation, raise Rotary's profile, and potentially boost membership growth. If your club has sponsored a participant in RYLA before, please continue this wonderful tradition. For those ready to dive in, now is the time. Together, we can ensure RYLA's life-changing impact continues for generations to come.

Carol O'Connell



DG Stephen and Carol O'Connell with RYLA participants and team members



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# INTERNATIONAL NEWS



## FIGHTING DEADLY DISEASES IN AFRICA

The Rotary Healthy Communities Challenge is a three-year, \$30 million initiative in partnership with the Gates Foundation and World Vision to combat pneumonia, malaria, and diarrheal diseases in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Zambia. Targeting 3.5 million people in 700,000 households, the program addresses leading causes of death for children under five in sub-Saharan Africa while strengthening health systems and raising disease awareness.

Modeled on the successful Partners for a Malaria-Free Zambia program, it will train, equip, and deploy thousands of community health workers to deliver life-saving care directly to underserved areas. The initiative also improves health data collection and management to support informed decision-making.

Leaders such as Larry Mapani and Aloysius Dele Balogun highlight the program's goal of empowering communities and equipping health workers with the tools to create sustainable change. Abigail Pratt of the Gates Foundation emphasizes the critical role of health workers in building resilient systems. By addressing urgent health challenges and bolstering local resources, the program aims to transform lives and establish a healthier future for vulnerable populations.

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