

# Rotary

## Rowville Lysterfield



### Guest Speaker—Frida Umuhoza

The presentation this week was incredibly powerful and moving as we heard the story of Frida Umuhoza, a survivor of the genocide in Rwanda in 1994. During 3 months of racially motivated violence, over 1 million people were killed, including Frida's 5 siblings, parents, grandparents and extended family. All members of the Tutsi tribe were targets for killing by the Hutu people, regardless of their standing in the community. The tensions between the two tribes had been evident for a long time, with Tutsi described as 'snakes' and 'cockroaches'. There had been occasional outbursts of violence since 1959.

As the violence escalated machetes were provided by the Government and the National Radio broadcast lists of names of those who were to be killed. Movement was quite restricted and there was no way to leave the country. Even hiding out in a church was not safe and in one case 3000 were killed in a church where they had taken shelter.

Frida and her family hid for several weeks but returned to the home of her grandfather when it was announced that the killing was over. However, this turned out to be a lie. Soon the inevitable happened - they were herded out to a ditch and one by one were killed. Frida asked that her attacker use a club and she was struck on the back of the head by a young man who she knew quite well. She fell into the ditch and lost consciousness. When she came around she was aware of the soil covering her and the bodies of her family and community members around her. After several hours she began to scream for help and was eventually dug out and hidden until the genocide ceased, ironically by a Hutu man.



### Meeting Details

#### Where:

Tosaria's Café  
60 Henderson Rd  
Rowville

#### When:

Tuesday, 6.30 pm  
for 7.00 pm start

**Meetings are  
hybrid unless  
indicated other-  
wise**

**Visitors are  
warmly welcomed**

*For information  
contact:*

Kevin Harrison  
0419 919 011

**Meeting Zoom link  
[here](#)**



**Home Club of  
IPDG Dr Daryl Moran**

President Kevin, Frida and  
President Leanne from RC  
Greater Dandenong and Endeavour  
Hills

Contd page 2

Frida was severely traumatized, angry, full of hate and suffered nightmares for years. In addition she lost the faith that had been an integral part of her Christian upbringing.

However, at 18 Frida felt the call to go back to Church and started her journey of forgiveness.

Frida realised that to heal herself she had to learn how to forgive. She realised that to forgive is to give yourself the key to get out of the prison of hatred. When you hate people they have control of your life and forgiveness is the gift you give yourself that breaks that control. It is not excusing the horror and it is not allowing people to escape the consequences of their action; nor is it being weak.

Frida has been able to forgive the perpetrators of the genocide against her family, but forgiveness is a load that she has to pick up every day.

Frida returned to Rwanda quite recently, the first time in 12 years, and this time she took her children with her. They visited the home where she grew up, or at least the home that she rebuilt exactly as it had been before the genocide.

Frida spoke at the UN in 2016 as she firmly believes that we are all citizens of the world and we all deserve to live in peace. It is distressing to her that at the moment Tutsi people are being killed in the Congo but very little is appearing in the news about this situation. We need to speak out against hate, as a small seed of hate can grow into something enormous.

We are very grateful that Frida made the time available to visit our Club and share her story. She is a truly amazing and inspiring individual.

Thank you also to the Rotary Club of Greater Dandenong and Endeavour Hills who joined us for the evening. An email from President Leanne indicated how much they enjoyed the night and how welcome they felt.

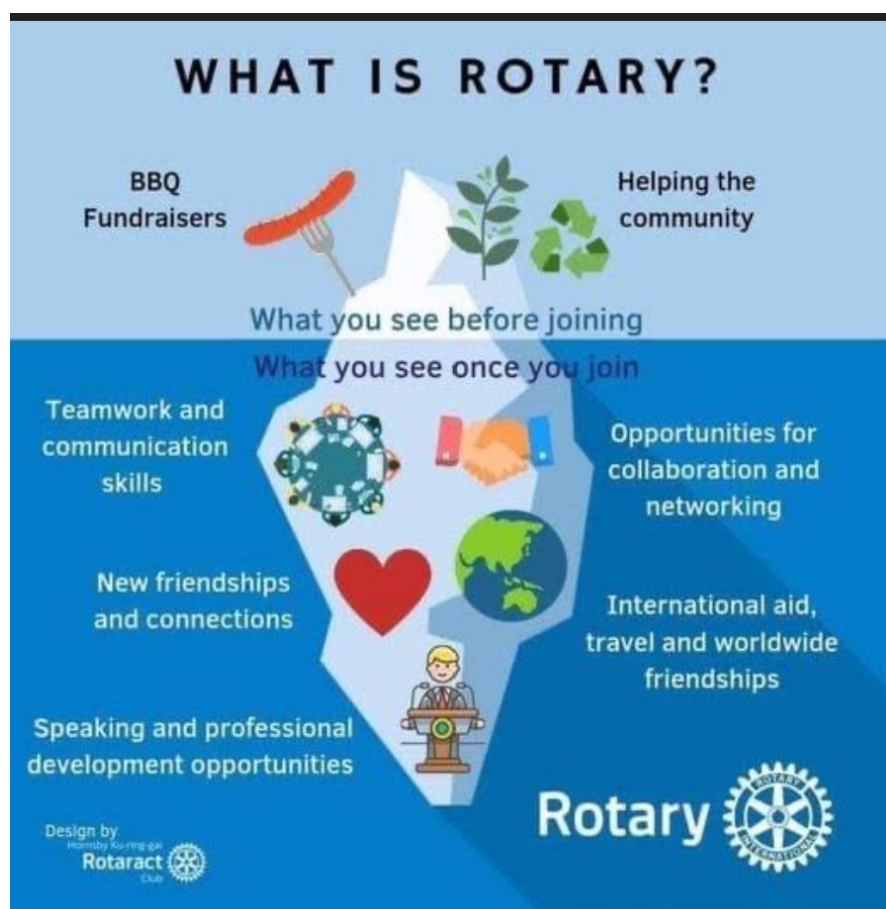


(above) Frida with Max Williams  
(below) The assembled gathering





**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**



### Rotary theme for each month

**July**— New leadership

**August**— Membership and New Club Development

**September**— Basic Education and Literacy

**October**— Economic and Community Development

**November**— Rotary Foundation

**December**— Disease Prevention and treatment

**January**— Vocational Services

**February**— Peace building and Conflict resolution

**March**— Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

**April**— Maternal & Child Health

**May**— Youth Service

**June**— Rotary Fellowships

### Rotarians Against Malaria



**ROTARIANS  
AGAINST MALARIA**

Rotarians Against Malaria is a volunteer-run organization working to eliminate malaria. The primary focus of RAM has been the distribution of insecticide-treated nets to vulnerable populations in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and more recently, Timor Leste. RAM has raised more than \$1.6 million to eliminate malaria since 2003. RAM works in conjunction with the Ministry of Health authorities in each country and complements the work of other malaria organisations, most notably the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

**We look forward to hearing more about this valuable Rotary program on March 7th.**



Last week a District forum was held to provide an update on various Youth Programs. It is exciting to think that at last, after the lengthy impact of COVID, these programs will once again be able to provide some wonderful experiences for young people. There will also be the opportunity for our Club to once again support young people from our community. Some of the programs which are running again are outlined below.

### **National Youth Science Forum**

The National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) is a not-for-profit organisation that runs a number of residential programs to encourage young people in their passion for science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). These programs show the wide variety of engaging, rewarding and inspiring study and career options available in STEM fields.



The flagship program is the NYSF Year 12 Program, which runs in January each year for students about to enter year 12. Since 1984, more than 14,000 young Australians have progressed through the NYSF Year 12 Program, including those run under the organisation's previous banner, the National Science Summer School (NSSS).

Rotary is the Founding Partner of NYSF and today the 18 local Rotary districts across Australia continue to conduct selections for the NYSF Year 12 Program on behalf of the NYSF.

### **Model United Nations Assembly**

This international youth program simulates the workings of the United Nations Assembly by having two senior students from a number of schools represent a particular UN country. The students debate on matters of world political and social concern. The assembly aims to build goodwill, world peace and understanding through the experience of tackling issues from the viewpoint of the team's 'adopted' country, even where this may be completely contrary to their own views. Students use research, debating and public speaking skills to address a wide range of contemporary and world-focussed issues. The program extends over a weekend and it is chaired and judged by Rotarians.



Locally, MUNA was able to be held in 2022 as a combined event for District 9810 and District 9820. It is a very worthwhile program to promote to local secondary schools.

### **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards**

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive leadership experience organized by Rotary clubs and Districts where you develop your skills as a leader while having fun and making connections. This program was also held in 2022 as a combined event for District 9810 and District 9820.

### BUNNINGS BBQs

Next BBQ Dates

**Friday March 17th**

**Saturday March 25th**

**Friday April 21st.**



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

### FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CARE—MUFFINS

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Thursday March 9th  | Kaye Heather, Corinne, Anita and Rajeev |
| Thursday March 23rd | Marg, Fiona, Sue & Pete, Jenny          |
| Thursday April 6th  | Marg, Heather, Corinne, Anita & Rajeev  |
| Thursday April 20th | Kaye, Fiona, Sue & Pete, Jenny          |

## Recycling Update

It is unfortunate that Biome at Brickworks is no longer able to take aluminium blister packs for recycling. They have found the cost of storing and transporting the vast amount that had quickly accumulated was prohibitive for a small business. **HOWEVER**, further research has brought to light that these blister packs can be recycled at **Bloom's Chemists**. Joy of joy, there is a Bloom's Chemist at Stud Park, who have confirmed they do accept the blister packs.

So keep collecting them and, if you don't ever go to Stud Park, we can easily find a Club member who will drop them in for you.



There are still many other items that can be recycled or repurposed or converted into money:

1. Used stamps— to Rotarian Camille Rogers at the RC of Glen Waverley (Jenny can pass them on)
2. Foreign coins and notes— to Rotarian Ron Brooks at the RC of Forest Hills (also give to Jenny)
3. Corks—to Murray or to Biome at Brickworks
4. Shoes that are too worn out to go to an Op Shop—drop into the boxes at Rebel Sport or other stores that are part of the Tread Lightly campaign
5. Hotel soaps—to Days for Girls
6. Egg cartons—to Foothills via Corinne

We look forward to hearing from a representative from Knox Council on March 21st who will provide a detailed account of what is able to be recycled through the Council Waste collection and how to avoid contamination of recycling bins.

We were thrilled to have Robin Yamaguchi, the Director of Family Care Uganda, at our meeting this week. Robin was able to provide an in-person update regarding her school and the students that our Club supports.



Robin outlined a little of the background of her school, catering for the poorest of the poor in the far north of Uganda. It is a small but effective school which is demonstrated by the excellent marks gained by the students at the school, consistently A's or B's in the National Examination, even from the very beginning. This is despite the fact that many of the students do not speak English when they come to the school. This standard has been maintained even despite the impact of COVID and lengthy school closures.

The students, who come from very disadvantaged backgrounds, are very grateful for the opportunity to be educated and work very hard. Their behaviour is also impeccable, so that they can continue to earn their place in the school.

The students at the school come from 3 groups: the Ik people, children of the child soldiers and refugees from South Sudan living in refugee camps. They live at the school during term time as life in the village is very difficult, particularly for the young girls. As an example, when schools closed due to COVID and students returned home to their village, many young girls became pregnant during this time.

After finishing primary school the students usually move on to Secondary School and their continuing education is often supported by Family Care Uganda. Many of the students have now graduated and are entering working lives in a vast array of areas: nurses, doctors, agriculture specialist, teachers and science roles.

Robin once again thanked us for the support provided by the Club for Kevin Adong and Patrick Lochiam who have just started Year 12 at the Jinja Progressive Academy.



Kevin Adong (girl) in the middle  
Patrick Lochiam on the right

- Best wishes and safe travel this week to the 17 members of the Club who will be heading to Canberra for the Rotary District 9810 Conference. As has been the usual routine, there will be a Club dinner on Friday night. The Gala dinner on Saturday night will be in the Great Hall of Parliament House, which should be a spectacular event. There has been much discussion concerning the dress-up theme and we look forward to seeing plenty of photos of Club members in their costumes.
- Post COVID work life is certainly returning to full throttle for many of our members. Murray and Kate are both on trips to Brisbane this week and Kate will also be visiting Lismore. The factory that Kate is visiting was amongst the many buildings impacted by the floods one year ago and it will be interesting to hear first hand how this town is recovering.
- It was very pleasing to have such a good turnout from the Rotary Club of Greater Dandenong and Endeavour Hills visit our meeting this week. It was an opportunity for us to interact with a Club from another District but which is not situated far away at all. And of course in about 18 months, we will be in the same district.
- If you did not get the chance to buy the book written by Frida, it can be purchased on Amazon, or perhaps ask around and borrow it from one of the club members who purchased it at this week's meeting. It is well worth reading.
- Please check out the roster for each meeting carefully and put it in your diary if you have a task to do. If you are unavailable, organize a replacement or let Jenny know so that she can ensure that there is someone available to do the job.



- Birthday this week—Sue B on Feb 28th. Happy birthday wishes to you Sue from all of us.
- The March edition of the Rowville Lysterfield community news is available now—click [here](#) to see the Club article on page 8.



Let's support our members in their business endeavours.

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| Date   | Registration | Chair   | Setup and production    | Program   |
|--|--------------|---------|-------------------------|---|
| <b>March—Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</b>     |              |         |                         |   |
| <b>DISTRICT CONFERENCE IN CANBERRA—3rd—5th</b> |              |         |                         |   |
| <b>7</b>                                       | Gary         | Bob     | Carol<br>Ian<br>John    | <b>Gloria Hargreaves</b><br>Rotarians Against Malaria   |
| <b>14</b>                                      | Corinne      | Steve   | John<br>Nathan<br>Jenny | <b>Reporting back from District Conference</b><br>Update on foreign coin collection<br>Ron Brooks |
| <b>21</b>                                      | Pete         | Stephen | Jenny<br>Alan<br>Bob    | <b>‘ What goes where?’</b><br>Recycling update from Knox<br>Council representative                |
| <b>28</b>                                      | Ayanthi      | Jeff    | Alan<br>Bob<br>Daryl    | <b>Annmarie Lambert</b><br>Orange Sky<br>—portable laundry service                                |
| <b>April—Maternal and Child Health</b>         |              |         |                         |   |
| <b>4</b>                                       | Kate         | Marg    | Daryl<br>Ian<br>John    | <b>Story Dogs</b>   |
| <b>11</b>                                      | Kaye         | Rajeev  | Ian<br>Nathan<br>Alan   | <b>How to Maximize a District Grant</b><br>Alan, Neil W, Marg                                     |
| <b>18</b>                                      | Murray       | Carol   | Alan<br>Bob<br>Stephen  | <b>Club Forum</b>   |



Orange Sky Australia is the world's first free mobile laundry service for people experiencing homelessness – an idea founded in a Brisbane garage by two mates in 2014. Now it has grown to something much more powerful.

Website: [www.rowvillerotary.com.au](http://www.rowvillerotary.com.au)

District 9810

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Rowville-Lysterfield-171446576246728/?ref=bookmarks>

Website: <http://www.9810rotary.org.au>

## 2022-23 BOARD MEMBERS

|                                 |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>President</b>                | Kevin Harrison    |
| <b>Vice-President</b>           | Marg Vesey        |
| <b>Secretary</b>                | Heather Morris    |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                | Neil White        |
| <b>President Elect</b>          | Carol Constantine |
| <b>President Nominee</b>        | Jenny Moran       |
| <b>Immediate Past President</b> | Murray Wilson     |
| <b>Director</b>                 | Steve Macdonald   |

## 2022-23 COMMITTEES

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Community</b>     | Marg Vesey (mentor)<br>Kate Kidd<br>Pete Batterham |
| <b>Youth Service</b> | Max Williams<br>Jeff Somers (mentor)               |
| <b>Environment</b>   | Gary Forrest<br>Ayanthi Gunatilake                 |
| <b>Foundation</b>    | Neil White (mentor)<br>Adrian Klep                 |
| <b>International</b> | Alan Lunghusen<br>(mentor)<br>Arshad Samsudeen     |
| <b>Vocational</b>    | John Williams<br>Neil Marshall                     |
| <b>Membership</b>    | Ayanthi Gunatilake<br>Gary Forrest                 |

## OTHER ROLES

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Rowville Secondary College Council Rep</b>            | Rajeev Wadhwa  |
| <b>Newsletter</b>  | Jenny Moran<br>Heather Morris  |
| <b>Facebook Website</b>                                  | Kevin Harrison<br>Alan Lunghusen<br>Stephen Palamara   |
| <b>Club Protection Officer</b>                           | Adrian Klep  |
| <b>Program Committee</b>                                 | Marg Vesey<br>Jenny Moran<br>Kaye Sharman  |
| <b>On-to-Conference Art Show Committee</b>               | Heather Morris<br>Rajeev Wadhwa<br>James Wilson  |
| <b>Rowville Lysterfield Community News Correspondent</b> | Jenny Moran  |
| <b>Fundraising Committee</b>                             | Carol Constantine<br>Adrian Klep<br>Bob Morris<br>Stephen Palamara<br>Arshad Samsudeen<br>Kaye Sharman |