

SustainAbility News September 2020

Coming Events:

ESRAG ANZPI Chapter Meeting

Oct 4, 2020 01:30 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84902521635>

ESRAG Biodiversity Task Force Presentations.

email yasar@atacik.com for the ZOOM link

Sept. 23, 2020: Is Aquaponics a Suitable Alternative?

October 14, 2020: Insects

Rotary Clubs of Sydney — [Climate and Peace Forum](#)
 10th November at 6pm

[DAW&E Environmental Calendar](#)

[National Biodiversity Month](#)

[National Landcare Week](#)

[National Threatened Species Day](#)

Resources:



esrag.org/sites/default/files/imce/ESRAG-Toolkit-3H.pdf

<https://fightforplaneta.abc.net.au/carboncounter/>

[Top 10 things you can do to help conserve Australia's biodiversity](#)

www.sustainablesocial.org

From our Chair, Pat Armstrong:

With this second issue of the ANZPI newsletter, we bring you some of the exciting news, stories and projects of Rotarians and Rotaractors who are supporting the environment in the Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands (ANZPI) region.

Membership of ESRAG (Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group) is growing rapidly, with Chapters in 13 regions around the world. Membership of our new ANZPI Chapter is also increasing steadily, as we serve as the voice of Rotary on the environment in our region.

At this early stage in the development of our Chapter, we encourage you to be a spokesperson for the environment within your Club and your District. We also invite you to take some further steps:

- ◆ distribute this newsletter to other members in your club
- ◆ attend our monthly online meetings of ANZPI
- ◆ report back to your club on environmental initiatives on a monthly basis
- ◆ if you haven't already done so, form an Environment Committee in your Club
- ◆ join a District Environment Committee (if your District doesn't have one, form one)
- ◆ start with just one environment project (just like some of the ones in this newsletter) and get your whole club on board



Creating a sustainable society: John Green, Rotary Club of Redcliffe Sunrise, Queensland

As there is no Planet "B", society needs to create an awareness of environmental sustainability. In order to understand this concept, a definition is both essential and beneficial.

Environmental: "relating to the natural world and the impact of human activity on its condition"

Sustainability: "the ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level"

Sustainability is made up of three pillars: economy, society & the environment.

In the 21st century, environmental sustainability refers generally to the capacity of the biosphere and human civilization to coexist.

While these are a couple of definitions, what's more important than definitions is how to measure progress towards a more sustainable society and future:

- ◆ How can society measure projects that are intended to deliver a more sustainable future...faster?
- ◆ One method of measurement is to ask questions against The Natural Step Four System Conditions of a Sustainable Society. [Read more](#)

Daniel Williams, Rotaract Club of Wollongong University. Daniel is studying a Bachelor of Science—Physics.

The club is linked to RC Corrimal and have engaged with the local community on a fortnightly beach clean up. This has seen a growth in engagement and membership. The members are very innovative and have also done regular park clean ups. Like most youth groups, they are passionate about the environment, sustainability and plastic pollution, and feel this is more important than some other Rotary projects.

They have received increased attention from other Rotary Clubs and have spread the word about how easy it is to do something simple on a regular basis. They encourage members to get out and do something 'green' even just going for a walk and appreciate nature.

Daniel advised that Rotary clubs must engage with the younger generation through social media and encourages us to use [WhatsApp](#), a closed social media messaging APP to connect, set dates and meetings and keep people informed.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/14cMMc2uPXrMqA8Ut-DQiO7aJo0ZrDPqf/view?usp=sharing>



This month's feature — Recycling and Repurposing

Let's tell the world that **Rotary Recycling Projects are a better alternative than landfill.** We do excellent work in this area and some of the items we recycle include.

- Books — fiction, non fiction and school textbooks
- Cars
- Clothing
- Computers and accessories
- Educational equipment, school desks and chairs and supplies
- Hearing Aids
- Home Furniture
- Hospital beds, Dental chairs, Medical equipment and consumables
- Invalid and Mobility equipment
- Playgrounds
- Rotary Op — Shop goods
- Student school uniforms
- Spectacles
- White Goods



Many people and organizations have surplus reusable items they want to get rid of and are looking for alternatives to landfill. Let them know about the recycling services we offer and give them the opportunity to become Friends of Rotary.

The other side of this activity is the people who benefit from the repurposed goods and its another story we should tell. If you want to be inspired look at our website and investigate the ways your Club can become more involved in this area. **We look forward to working with you to “Do Good in the World” by creating more action in this area.**

<https://rotarydistrict9800.org.au/sitepage/environment-sustainability>

<https://rotarydik.org/>

<https://rawcs.org.au/donations-in-kind-2-2/>

[Read more](#)

The National Referral Hospital in the Solomon Islands is one of the many recipients of medical equipment from Donations in Kind. The 600th container shipped by DiK in March included:

25 wheelchairs, many overbed tables and chairs, 5 ECG machines, an anaesthetic machine, bedside lockers, cots, humidicribs, 5 defibrillators, 2 neonatal resuscitation and warming tables, 200 linen sheets & pillowcases, 5 vital sign monitors, 2 pallettes of Kimguard steri wrap, Oxygen prongs, trolley and trays for meals delivery, neonatal incubators, and many boxes of, gloves, masks, insulin syringes, drapes, dressings, needles, cannulae, and a variety of hospital consumables.

Dental equipment including Surgery Cabinetry flat packs, 3 dental chairs, an A-dec operating cart, X-ray, hospital grade suction system, large amount of denture teeth, dental prosthetic equipment and supplies, and boxes of instruments, filling materials and supplies to help equip the new surgeries.

All told the container donations totalled 483 boxes/ items and weighed 7500 kgs.

Rotary Clubs of Ballarat West, Horsham, Melbourne Passport and Honiara.



SUSTAINABLE LIVING

Be a friend to the environment - it helps make the world a healthier and safer place

This is the first in a series of short articles that aims to give some practical advice on how we can all live in an environmentally sustainable way to help protect our environment. Making the world we live in a healthier and safer place, not only for ourselves, but more importantly for future generations.

FOOD WASTE

Food waste is a major contributor in damaging our environment, because when food waste goes to landfill it decomposes and emits methane gas, a very toxic pollutant. And it's frightening that each year:



- ◆ Australians send **5.3** million tonnes of food waste to landfill, the equivalent of 220 kgs per person.
- ◆ Victorian households throw out **250,000 tonnes of food**, enough to fill Melbourne's Eureka Tower.
- ◆ **60%** of the food we throw out is scraps.
- ◆ **29%** of Australians leave **15%** of their meal on their plate, when dining out.



Food Saving Tips

Shop smart. To avoid buying more food than you need, make frequent trips to the grocery store every few days rather than doing a bulk shopping trip once a week.

- ◆ When supermarket shopping, avoid using plastic bags and wrappings.
- ◆ If possible, avoid pre-packaged products and carry **reusable** bags.
- ◆ **Store food correctly** – improper storage can lead to a massive amount of food waste.
- ◆ Learn to preserve to make food last longer to **reduce waste**.
- ◆ Keep your fridge, freezer, and pantry tidy – an overstocked fridge can be bad when it comes to food waste.
- ◆ Eat **less meat** as beef cattle are heavy emitters of methane gas.
- ◆ Try composting, turning food waste into energy, but remember in the first place it's best to reduce the waste we create.
- ◆ Place food scraps in a **Green bin** for composting if the local council provides.

[Read more](#)

Submit your projects:

We know that all clubs have fantastic projects related to environment and sustainability.

We encourage you to send us the details with images and impact statistics for uploading to the ESRAG ANZPI website.

<https://staging4.esraganzpi.org/submit-a-project>

For more info esraganzpi@gmail.com or David Dippie at Solatube@bigpond.com

Rob Edwards, a member of the Corrimal Rotary Club, Australia, has just launched [Sustainable Social](#) to help businesses such as resorts, cafés, and hotels market their green practices and services via social media, catching the eye of customers who care about the environment.

Rotary Clubs can join and attract new members by publicizing their environmental projects.

The site has a fun [video pitch](#) to inspire clubs to start an environmental project.

Email Rob to learn more.
<https://robedwards.co/>

Citizen Science:

[Atlas of Living Australia](#)

<https://aussiebirdcount.org.au/>

<https://questagame.com/>

[Melbourne Water Frog Census](#)

[Frog ID](#)

[Trees Around the Globe Campaign](#)

[Waterwatch](#)

Call to action:

1. Promote Environment and Sustainability as the new Area of Focus.
2. Establish an Environment & Sustainability committee in your club.
3. Choose a simple project members can get involved in right now, even in isolation.
4. Register your project with ANZPI.
5. Join one of the ANZPI teams.
6. Tell us what you need.



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