

Rotary



ESRAG ANZPI

ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY
ROTARY ACTION GROUP

Australia
New Zealand
Pacific Islands

SustainAbility News December 2020

Coming Events:

December 8, 2020

Bureau of Meteorology State of the Climate webinar

January 5-9 2021

NCSE & Project Drawdown Conference: Science & Solutions for a planet under pressure [Register](#) (Cost for full event)

ESRAG ANZPI Chapter Meeting

February 7th 2021 1:30 PM

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

Climate and Peace Forum

Tuesday 16 February 2021: 6pm AEDT

[February Climate & Peace Forum](#)

Sunday 7 March 2021

Resources:

[ESRAG & UNEP](#)

[Handbook](#)

[ESRAG](#)



esraganzpi.org/

Share the ESRAG 2 minute video introducing the new Area of Focus: The Environment.

[Project Drawdown](#)

<https://sustainablesocial.org/pages/inforotary>

[The Green Event checklist](#)

Welcome to the newest members of ESRAG ANZPI:

District 9600—Colin Scobie, Redcliffe Sunrise; Vivien Harris, Kippa Ring Northlakes

District 9790—Alan Field, Eltham

District 9800—Vijay Susarla, Camberwell

There are now 119 ESRAG members in 25 Districts across Zone 8: 9455, 9465, 9510, 9550, 9570, 9600, 9630, 9650, 9670, 9675, 9685, 9700, 9705, 9710, 9780, 9790, 9800, 9810, 9820, 9830, 9910, 9920, 9930, 9940, 9980

From our Chair, Pat Armstrong:

In these ANZPI newsletters, we bring you some of the exciting news, stories and projects of Rotarians and Rotaractors who are protecting the environment in the Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands (ANZPI) region.

In this newsletter, I will give a brief update on the new TRF Area of Focus, the progress over the past six months of ESRAG and that of ESRAG ANZPI.



I'm sure you'll all be aware of the new Area of Focus on the Environment, which is now being described as **Protecting the environment**. The Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees approved the Policy Statement for the *Environment* in a meeting in September 2020. The final policy statement and implementation plan is expected to be released in mid-January 2021. Clubs will be able to apply for grants under this new Area of Focus from July 2021. You can make donations now towards the Environment Area of Focus at the ESRAG website.

For new and interesting articles on the RI website regarding the environment, go to these sites: [Environment](#) and [Climate change](#).

At the ESRAG global level, there are now 993 members in 57 countries as at November 30, 2020. This represents a 46% YTD membership growth! Across the globe, there are 12 active Regional Chapters, and 110 Districts with an Environment District Committee. ESRAG offers a monthly newsletter and an exciting program of webinars. It is trialling a club carbon calculator in four countries and will soon release a *Green Events Handbook*.

At ESRAG ANZPI, we now have 119 members, having grown from 48 members in March 2020. After extensive consultation, the Executive Team has developed a three-year strategic plan. We have arranged six chapter meetings (with attendances of 30 to 40 people), produced six newsletters, an Events' Digest and offered an exciting program of webinars and workshops. We are connecting with the Zone 8 District Governors, have established a Network of Zone 8 District Environment Coordinators and have a team of past District Governors providing strategic advice.

If you haven't already done so, please check out the ESRAG ANZPI [website](#), which now showcases over 56 projects from clubs across our region, as well as providing a wealth of useful information. This website will be used as the prototype for the new ESRAG website.

How exciting it was to see so many Chapter members on-line last Sunday for our sixth Chapter meeting. Rob Edwards from the Rotary Club of Corrimal in NSW was our guest speaker, sharing with us an inspiring story of the *Solar School* project in Fiji.

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:

- ◆ share this newsletter with other members in your club
- ◆ report back to your club on environmental initiatives on a monthly basis
- ◆ attend our monthly online Chapter meetings of ESRAG ANZPI
- ◆ 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, why not form one?)
- ◆ start with just one environment project (just like some of the ones described in this newsletter and on the new website) and get your whole club on board
- ◆ share your environmental success stories with your club, district and community and upload your projects to the ESRAG ANZPI website so that we can share them with the rest of the world.

Pat

This month's feature: It's Time - 24 hour power for a modern education with Solar panels in Pacific Islands schools

Rob Edwards from Corrimal Rotary is the founder of Its Time Foundation. iitime.org

The Its Time Foundation delivers renewable power solutions for remote Pacific Island schools with the dual objectives of reducing carbon emissions and enhancing education in the target communities.

Using the specific criteria of the Rotary Foundation based on need, sustainability and local community buy-in, they install solar systems in schools in remote Pacific Islands. This has multiple benefits in that:

- ◆ The money previously spent on diesel fuel is now allocated to buying technology and materials for students.
- ◆ This reduces CO2 emissions.
- ◆ The solar system provides 24 hour power enabling students to learn, teachers to prepare and access to technology.
- ◆ Environment and sustainability lessons are built into the project. Children participate in weekly beach clean ups collecting plastic which washes ashore. These clean-ups ensure the children are aware of how they can help. At one school, 170 students in one hour picked up 10,934 pieces of plastic!
- ◆ Teachers and community members are involved in collecting data on solar energy collected and used each day.
- ◆ Students participate in displaying posters with information on saving power.

Rob explained the solar systems which are installed, including long life lithium batteries, best quality cyclone rated solar panels, LED lighting, inverters and cabling. He also said that with such projects quality is a must.

In one recent installation in Fiji, the \$200 per week which had been spent on diesel fuel equated to 10,000 kgs of CO2 eliminated in a year.

Rob also said how important it is to thank your sponsors and supporters. Its Time has a bank of dedicated sponsors and supporters who receive videos from the schools they assist. Rotary clubs which are partners include Augsburg-Fuggerstadt, Balwyn, Corrimal, Inverloch, Kardinia, Kuringai, Lindfield, Sydney Cove and Taveuni Island.

Watch Rob's presentation <https://iitime.org/anzpidec21/>
Donate, buy a raffle ticket, support.



Go Green this Christmas:

Buy recycled—[Buy Recycled \(cleanup.org.au\)](http://Buy Recycled (cleanup.org.au))

Choose a Live Tree which can then be planted in the garden or kept in a pot for next year.

Find Alternatives to wrapping paper: use fabric or brown paper. Most shiny Christmas wrap isn't recyclable.

Buy Less. Some holiday gifts fill a practical need and need to be bought new.

Give sustainable gifts such as donations, experiences, vouchers and gifts which last.

Buy Smart: Think 'Green' and look for locally made.

Minimise plastic and packaging.

Avoid battery powered goods.

Lower the impact of holiday lighting—go solar.

Send FSC cards or make homemade cards.

Reduce food waste.

Avoid disposable plates and cutlery.



[How to be sustainable this Christmas \(sustainability.vic.gov.au\)](http://How to be sustainable this Christmas (sustainability.vic.gov.au))

Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Corrimal, District NSW.



Corrimal Rotary Environmental Group recently received the top award at the annual presentation event for Wollongong City Council's Rise and Shine program.

Wollongong Council has been running the Rise and Shine environmental program since 1986. Members attended the presentation ceremony during the week and were surprised to receive the top award for our contribution to the local environment, through regular clean ups and some involvement in bush care.

One of their members, Dilys Hoser, also received an individual award for her work throughout the year. These awards are another great way to help raise awareness of Rotary and the need to look after the environment. Congratulations Dilys and Corrimal Rotary.

Have you heard about Project Drawdown?

Founded in 2014, Project Drawdown® is a nonprofit organization that seeks to help the world reach "Drawdown"—the future point in time when levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere stop climbing and start to steadily decline. Since the 2017 publication of the New York Times bestseller, *Drawdown*, the organization has emerged as a leading resource for information and insight about climate solutions. We continue to develop that resource by conducting rigorous review and assessment of climate solutions, creating compelling and human communication across mediums, and partnering with efforts to accelerate climate solutions globally.

[The Drawdown Review](#) focusses on solutions and the reduction in CO2 emissions.

\$\$\$ The NAB Foundation is currently seeking applications for Community Grants. Grants are for projects that help communities prepare for natural disasters, support long-term recovery and build resilience to future disasters. One of their foci is environmental sustainability. [Read more..](#)

[The Great Barrier Reef Coral spawning](#)



[An underwater garden in Sydney Harbour using 3d printed tiles](#)



[Understanding time zones:](#)

UTC = GMT: Coordinated Universal Time or Greenwich Mean Time

AEDT = DST: Australian Eastern Daylight Time is UTC +11

AEST: Winter // non Daylight Savings Time

PST: Pacific Standard Time UTC -8

NZDT_DST: New Zealand and Pacific is UTC +13

<https://www.timeanddate.com/time/map/>



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Call to action:

1. Promote Environment and Sustainability as the new Area of Focus.
2. Register your club projects with ANZPI.
3. Join one of the ANZPI teams.
4. Suggest items of interest for newsletters.
5. Tell us what you need.
6. Participate in one or more of the upcoming environment webinars.
7. Visit the Esraganzpi.org website and explore.



[Like the ESRAG LinkedIn page](#)
[Like us on Facebook](#)

Project Research Volunteers

We need volunteers to help do desktop research (a great COVID activity) and help develop a register of Environmental Sustainability Projects in the ANZPI region.

We also need volunteers to fill out our Project Forms so we can add these projects to our Projects Portfolio.



[Add an image to your email signature:](#)

I am a proud ESRAG member. Join me?

