

# Rotary



# ESRAG ANZPI

ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY  
ROTARY ACTION GROUP

Australia  
New Zealand  
Pacific Islands

## SustainAbility News March 2021

### Coming Events:

#### ESRAG ANZPI Chapter Meeting

Tuesday 9th April 2021: 6pm AEDT  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84902521635>

Tuesday 4th May 6.00pm AUS  
UTC+10

Climate and Peace Forum  
<https://climateandpeace.com.au>

Friday 4th June 2021  
Launch of the Environment Area of Focus

Friday 11 June 2021  
ESRAG Convention meeting

[Department of Agriculture, Water  
& Environment Calendar](#)

### Resources:

[ESRAG & UNEP  
Handbook | ESRAG](#)

[esraganzpi.org/](http://esraganzpi.org/)  
Share the ESRAG 2  
minute video  
introducing the new Area of  
Focus: The Environment.

[Project Drawdown](#)

<https://sustainable-social.org/pages/inforotary>



### Welcome to the newest members of ESRAG ANZPI:

District 9640 – Joanne Best, non-  
Rotarian

District 9675 – Bronwen Wade-  
Leeuwen, Sydney Cove

District 9810 – Tony Robinson,  
Doncaster

District 9830 – Michael Plunkett,  
Deloraine

There are now 128 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:

As interest in the environment continues to give momentum across the Rotary world, the number of ESRAG members continues to grow, with currently 1,100 ESRAG members in 57 countries around the world.

In our own Zone 8, we are excited to announce two new ESRAG initiatives to encourage environmental actions amongst our Rotary clubs and districts.

#### Launch of the Environment Area of Focus Friday 4 June.

The program for this virtual event will include interviews with past Rotary International President Ian Riseley, PDG Juliet Riseley and Professor Lesley Hughes, an academic and climate scientist from Macquarie University and a welcome from Rotary International Director from Zone 8, Dr Jesse Harman. It will also showcase environmental projects across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.

#### ESRAG Environment Ambassadors Training Course.

This course, which will be available to Rotarians and Rotaractors from all Districts in Zone 8, will offer a series of virtual workshops, led by expert facilitators and mentors. It will offer modules such as how to develop compelling presentations, how to facilitate effective group meetings, how to become an engaging storyteller and tools for guiding change for sustainability.

**We are seeking members from ESRAG ANZPI who would be interested in participating in a focus group on Monday, 30 March at 7.30 pm to help the planning team with a needs assessment for the selection of these modules.**

If interested in participating, please contact me: [pat.arm@bigpond.net.au](mailto:pat.arm@bigpond.net.au)

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.

We encourage you to be a spokesperson for the environment within your Club and your District. We also invite you to be a person of action:

- ◆ share this newsletter with other members in your club members
- ◆ 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 those described in this newsletter and on the ANZPI 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
- ◆ and, most importantly, **ask a friend to join ESRAG**

Pat

[Like the ESRAG LinkedIn page](#)

[Like us on Facebook](#)



## ESRAG ANZPI Monthly Meeting Tuesday 2nd March 2021

At this meeting we heard from Victor Perton, a barrister, and former parliamentarian in the Victorian Government 1988-2006. He was also the Victorian Government Commissioner to the Americas. He founded the Australian Leadership Project in 2015 which led to the Centre for Optimism. He is the author of "[Optimism: The How and Why](#)" and "[The Case for Optimism: The Optimists' Voices](#)"



In his presentation, Victor focused on the current **fog of pessimism enveloping our public discourse**. In Australia, New Zealand and many parts of the so-called developed world, a mindset of pessimism in our corporate, government and media communications. The "news" spreads the worst news about everything, so "well-informed" people think it's logical to be pessimistic. Victor also spoke of the current news content which is 95% negative and only 5% positive, whereas 20 years ago it was a more balanced 50/50.

As optimism underpins innovation, entrepreneurship and creativity, pessimism is an inhibitor to personal, national and global growth. As he interviewed people for the book, his questioning became better attuned: what he was uncovering were the personal causes of optimism. If we want better leadership, we need to help people discover their own source of optimism. Finally the core question he raised is "What makes you optimistic?"

Victor was fortunate enough to bounce that question off the guru of positive psychology Professor Martin Seligman.

[Who is Martin Seligman and What Does He Do? \(positivepsychology.com\)](#)

Martin told me that I had nailed 40 years of positive psychology research in that question. Given, his most recent book is called Hope, he cheekily commended a longer query: "What makes you optimistic? What gives you hope?"

Victor encouraged us to keep a Gratitude diary—each evening list 3 things that have brought you pleasure/joy during the day. From a simple coffee with a friend to the marvellous sunrise. Reread these in the morning—what a way to start the day.

View some of his presentations here : [Victor Perton Presentations and Interviews on Optimism \(centreforoptimism.com\)](#)

We then viewed a presentation from Ellen Sandell, MP for Melbourne.

Ellen was unable to join us live due to a reading in the house requiring her attendance.

Ellen grew up in Mildura and gained a BSc at the University of Melbourne. She was the Young Environmentalist of the Year Award in 2009 and founded the Australian Youth Climate Coalition in 2011. She is Deputy Leader of the Victorian Greens. She is the spokesperson for **Climate Change and Energy and the Environment, including forests, water and waste**.



Ellen gave us an overview of the successful changes being made in Victoria currently in the environment and climate area. She listed several major projects including that Parliament voted in favour of a **Green new deal**.

- \* building large scale wind, solar and energy storage.
- \* upgrading the energy grid
- \* funding solar panels on homes and schools
- \* ban on single use plastics
- \* a state government plan to use recycled materials in roads and infrastructure
- \* Funding to grow our recycling processing and manufacturing industry

Ellen was positive about our work and the contribution that Rotarians make. She encouraged us to continue to raise awareness of the environment and speak up; tell our politicians what we want and support, she says they are glad to hear from us.

We welcomed new members to ESRAG ANZPI and heard their stories.

We also heard from Rob Anderson about #1 Fix the Planet and Rob Edwards on the recent Peace & Climate Forum.

Next meeting Tuesday 9 April at 6pm.

Rotary International has released an updated Visual Guidelines for the Areas of Focus, now including environment. Download at [Asset Details | Brand Center \(rotary.org\)](#)

Over 500 people from 31 different countries listened in real time to Past Rotary International President Ian Riseley's talk for ESRAG on 2nd March on how Environment became a Rotary Area of Focus.

[Watch the recording](#) to hear his compelling and inspiring call to action.



### Environment news:

A team of 26 international authors has just published a study in the prestigious journal *Nature* offering a possible solution to several challenges. It is a comprehensive assessment where strict ocean protection can contribute to a more abundant supply of healthy seafood and perhaps provide a natural solution to address climate change, and protect embattled species and habitats. [Read the full article here](#)

The Optimist Newsletter of 26 February publishes an article headlined The carbon footprint of food waste is greater than that of the airline industry. The article goes on to state that a third of all food grown for human consumption is never eaten according to ReFed:

[{Food Waste Recycling Analysis, Reduce Food Waste & Food Recovery - ReFED}](#) [Read more](#)

Have you heard of the school built from trash? [See the video here](#)

The latest from Project Drawdown— [Climate Solutions 101](#)

RACV@home - [What to Plant in Autumn:](#)

Sustainable Social:

[ROTARY'S NEW FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY](#)  
[\(sustainablesocial.org\)](#)



### 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

[www.timeanddate.com/time/map/](http://www.timeanddate.com/time/map/)



### 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?





[www.esraganzpi.org](http://www.esraganzpi.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/ESRAGANZPI>

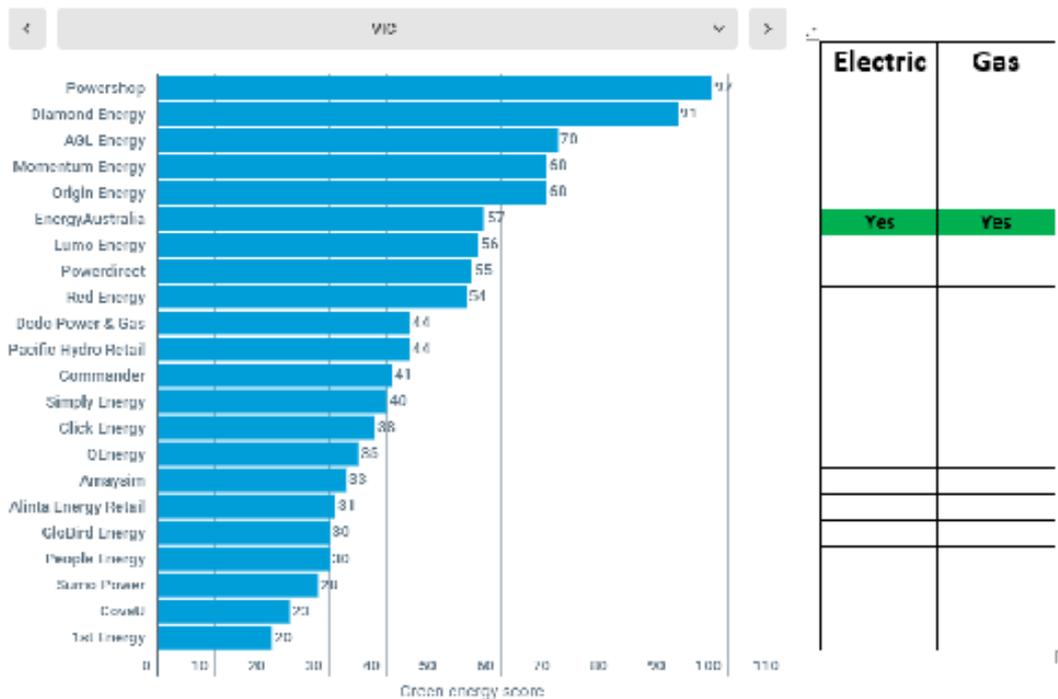
## Facts Sheet

## Carbon Neutral Domestic Power

## Victoria

For many of us Carbon Neutral Domestic Power is as easy as ticking a box on your power supplier's website. for Electricity and Gas.

### The greenest energy retailers by state



Data Choice Magazine [Green electricity guide - Energy | CHOICE, 2018 Green Electricity Guide.](#)

If your supplier is not in the above check with them, you may be lucky. If not, when is the last time you searched for the best offer? This website provides independent information on the most competitive prices, Victorian Government's [Victorian Energy Compare website](#)

Having carbon neutral power is a great way to reduce your carbon footprint and to do your bit to reduce carbon emissions and "Protect the Planet"

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