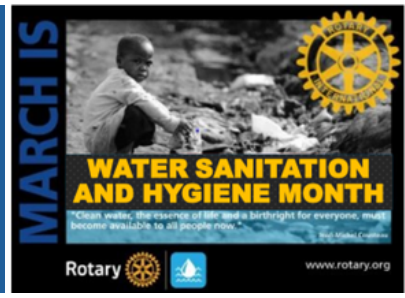


# THE COG



Rotary Club of Heidelberg, Australia [www.rotaryheidelberg.org](http://www.rotaryheidelberg.org) P.O. Box 129 Rosanna VIC 3084

Rotary Club of Heidelberg Inc. Zone 8 – District 9790 – Club No. 18278 ABN 91 870 845 490

**23rd March 2026**

**The Sycamore Tree 10.30 am**

### Rotary Heidelberg 2025 – 2026 Executive

President	Richard Luke	0428 531 024
President Elect	Allison Roberson	0402 154 531
Hon. Secretary	Peter Carr	0419 357 905
Hon. Treasurer	Geoff Cook	0407 308 171



### Zone 8 District 9790

District Governor: Emma Davis

District Governor Elect: Paul Miegel

Cluster Assistant/Area Governor: Pat Solibakke

District Secretary: Rosemary Freeman

District Treasurer: Rodney Bramich

President Rotary International: Francesco Arezzo

### PROGRAM 2025-26

MARCH Water Sanitation and Hygiene Month

- 23 Sycamore Tree 10.30 am: (RSVP/shared travel? 25 March)
- 24 Board Meeting 6.30 pm Bowlen Dunstan and Associates
- 25 RIMERN Visit. RSVP "Yes/No; short/longer visit?" to Ken Norman by 11.30 am 23 March (for RIMERN planning)
- 30 Sycamore Tree 10.30 am Special invite to partners and 'Friends.'

\* RSL = RSL on Bell – 180 Bell Street Heidelberg Heights

\* OE = The Old England Hotel - 459 Lower Heidelberg Road Heidelberg

\* Sycamore Tree Coffee Shop = 185 Burgundy Street, Heidelberg

\* Second Bite (volunteer roster)

\* Bowlen Dunstan and Associates – 38 Beetham Parade, Rosanna

\* Rotary Club of Ivanhoe - Ivanhoe Uniting Church Hall, Seddon Street, Ivanhoe

\* RIMERN 32 Lincoln Street East Brunswick (corner of Moreland Road)

### ATTENDANCE

\*\*Members are reminded to advise Ken Norman 0437 770 831 or [ken.w.norm@gmail.com](mailto:ken.w.norm@gmail.com) before 9.30 am Monday, of their planned attendance or apology\*\*  
Ken maintains Club stats including attendance records and liaises with venues.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The meeting last Monday, while again at the RSL, was a big contrast with the previous (evening) meeting: no guest speaker, small attendance (several apologies), mini- Club Assembly, friendship, lots of chatter, some useful discussion (in advance of the upcoming Board meeting; subsequently delayed by a week): and a good story from Rodger (see below). There was agreement that we aim to have more accurate numbers at next Monday's meeting, of those intending to participate (partners very welcome) in the upcoming visit to RIMERN. Also, possibly, plans for car-pooling (close-by parking, as I experienced it on my one visit, not plentiful). Susie Cole's email is repeated again below. Refer also to "FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – February 2026" about RIMERN later in the Cog.

Last Monday evening, President-elect Allison attended our cluster meeting at the Preston RSL in my place. I hope this was useful for both Allison and the group: a further glimpse of the future. I should have invited Allison to report for this section of the Cog! Next step, District Conference, this weekend. Thanks to Noel for drawing attention to need for updating of Cog "header"!

Richard L

*N.B. Please RSVP for the RIMERN visit on March 25th as per details in "Program".*

## RODGER'S RED LS MONARO (RODGERS TEXT)

How did Rodger's 1974 Monaro find itself on a Mac's Butter Shortbread biscuit tin?

After a very eventful life in the Tice family, including towing a caravan all over the east coast of Australia for 4 months, the Monaro settled back into normal View Bank family life.

In 1982 it was time to sell the car. The vehicle ended up being sold to a car yard specialising in unique motor vehicles and nothing more was heard about the car.

However, some years later, a madly enthusiastic Monaro collector managed to track down Rodger and inform him that he had bought the car and had added it to his collection of Monaro's.

Somehow the enthusiast had managed to present his collection for inclusion on the Mac's Butter Shortbread Selection tin.

Hence the photograph of the tin which the enthusiast sent to Rodger.



## FROM SUSIE COLE, (RIMERN) Repeat from previous Cog, slightly updated

Friday 27 February 2026 Email from Susie (below).

Hi Richard, Peter and Nancy,

RIMERN visit?

Hi Richard,

Let's lock in **Wednesday 25th March** for your Club to visit RIMERN, would you like it to be part information/part working bee? If so we'd meet on site RIMERN 9.30 before we officially open, spend 30 minutes having the briefing, tour and paperwork and then the members who wanted to help would be paired up with some of the regular Wednesday Warriors to do a variety of tasks and then they'd see first hand what we get up to, see a couple/few of our clients attending for their Goods Selection Appointments and then they'd know what's involved if you became a member Club and made a monthly commitment to a Monday session, currently 10 - 1.30 but hopefully will stretch to the full 10 - 3 when we start booking client appointments then too. The members that can't stay would be free to go from 10am.

If you wanted the working bee part to finish at 1pm that would be fine, if anyone wanted to stay for the full session (until 3pm) they'd be very welcome. If you want to bring lunches we just put them in the fridges, if you want to order sandwiches/wraps to be delivered we can help with supplier suggestions, if you want to finish helping then head out for lunch as a group then that works too.

I'll diarise the 25th and we can work on what Mondays might look like after that. Do you think the Club will entertain joining as a member Club? I've attached some information about it for you to circulate.

Looking forward to meeting Rotary Heidelberg on 25th March!

Kind regards,

Susie

## SECONDBITE ROSTER

To date this year, our help has not been required and need/involvement is on a week-by-week basis: so, no need for names in the roster (yet?!). No fault on our part, just no help required (reduced supply of "sortable")!

Thank you, RL

## RIMERN: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – February 2026

#### 1. Why have Rotary Clubs joined together to establish Rotary Inner Melbourne Relief Network as a Centenary of Rotary in Australia project?

Eastern Emergency Relief Network (EERN) in Mitcham was established as a joint Rotary, Lions and City of Whitehorse project 30+ years ago to provide donated furniture, appliances and household essentials to people coming out of homelessness, domestic violence, jail, natural disaster and other situations of need.

Ten years ago EERN helped the Western Emergency Relief Network (WERN) set up to provide the same service in the western suburbs, and today 13 Rotary Clubs are active members of this vital community service project.

Both EERNS work with clients introduced by member social workers and support agencies, and supply hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of goods to many hundreds of people every year.

In inner Melbourne there was a gap, a huge need for material support for the same type of clients that EERN and WERN support, and Rotary Prahran members asked “why don’t we try setting up an Inner Melbourne Emergency Relief Network?”

Rather than call the project IMERN, ‘Rotary’ was proudly added to the name, and the project was planned in August 2020, a few more Clubs agreed to participate and RIMERN opened in July 2021.

Like Donations In Kind is to international service, RIMERN is to local community & environmental service, a collective project that enables clubs to work together, to join in meaningful, “hands on service”, engage with community volunteers and support organisations to provide material aid to vulnerable people in our own back yards for years to come. It’s proven to be a huge PR boost for Rotary and for participating Clubs, a beacon of service in the local community and a conduit to Rotary membership for volunteers who meet Rotarians as they help in the warehouse and learn more about the scope and impact of Rotary.

## **2. Where is RIMERN located?**

Home for RIMERN is a 770m<sup>2</sup>, 2 level warehouse (with goods lift) at **32-34 Lincoln Street, East Brunswick**, close to the city, the freeway and support agencies, with good public transport links for volunteers and clients.

## **3. What does RIMERN need?**

Regular Monday volunteers at the warehouse, contacts in hotels, serviced apartments and retailers as a source of donated goods including contemporary donated furniture, working appliances, linen, homewares and all the basic needs to fully equip a home.

## **4. What does it cost to operated RIMERN?**

Rent, outgoings & truck expenses cost around \$100,000pa of which Rotary clubs contribute around one third, the balance comes from grants, donations, sponsorships, some cash flow from online sales and hiring out our truck a couple of days a week. As many wanted items are seldom available in sufficient quantity or quality to complete client orders, RIMERN also purchases homewares from Kmart, Bunnings & reconditioned appliance dealers, with an annual budget of around \$40,000 (dependent on grant funding).

## **5. How is RIMERN funded?**

Set up costs, including building security deposit and rent in advance, were funded by Rotary Prahran (\$27,500).

Currently twenty two member Clubs (Prahran, Albert Park, North Melbourne, Camberwell, Canterbury, Balwyn, North Balwyn, Central Melbourne, Carlton, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Flemington Kensington, Kew, Chadstone/East Malvern, Pascoe Vale, Malvern, Melbourne, Glenferrie, Preston, Moreland, Ivanhoe & Port Phillip) have committed a *minimum* of \$1,000pa for 3 years (the lease term) with some pledging more, but eventually RIMERN is aiming for around 24 member Clubs from Districts 9800 & 9790 to support the project both financially and with

volunteers.

RIMERN has no paid staff & is run solely by volunteers.

RIMERN also continually applies for Grants, philanthropic donations and corporate sponsorships, to ensure the operating costs are always well covered, and in June 2023 was successful in obtaining \$10,000 per year X 3 years for rent & overheads from the local council (City of Merri-bek), \$10,000 to purchase hard to find homewares (eg. Microwaves, vacuum cleaners, small electrical appliances, pillows etc) for women in crisis (Dept. Families, Fairness & Housing), \$10,000 each from the City of Melbourne & Community Bank Clifton Hill-North Fitzroy for metal bed bases, and \$40,000 from a philanthropic trust to cover the shortfall of rent & outgoings created by sub-tenant Canard Solutions (who were with us for the first 18 months) leaving the warehouse. Going forward the Gailey Lazarus Charitable Foundation has committed a generous portion of our rent for 3 years and we continue to fundraise for operating expenses including the purchase of wanted items that are hard to source second hand but always needed by our clients setting up homes.

## **6. Who manages/operates RIMERN?**

All Member Clubs nominate two members to the RIMERN Committee that meets monthly via zoom and from the initial Committee a Management Committee of 7 people was elected: Chair Susie Cole (Rotary Prahran), Secretary Jo Connellan (Rotary Moreland), Treasurer David Gorman (Rotary Albert Park), PDG Keith Ryall (Rotary Carlton), Warehouse Manager Ros McMaster (Rotary Prahran), John Peberdy (Rotary Melbourne) & Larry Robb (Rotary North Melbourne) to manage project governance.

## **7. Who volunteers at RIMERN?**

Most member Clubs have a nominated volunteering day, some just have members volunteering with others (Rotarians & community supporters) on a regular day of the week or fortnight, we have some mature aged volunteers fulfilling their Centrelink Mutual Responsibility Obligations and in future years may welcome some 'work for the dole' volunteers organised through Job Find (if we open every monday for the full 5 hours & can thus satisfy their required hours). Some volunteers help on our truck, driving and jockeying to collect donated goods, others monitor social media posts for usable appliances and small furniture in their neighbourhoods then they drop them to the warehouse when they collect a reasonable load. Many RIMERN supporters simply collect 10c refundables and assign their refunds to us.

RIMERN has a lot of local community support and a number of our regular volunteers are non-Rotarians who are inspired by what we do.

## **8. When is RIMERN open?**

Volunteer & Good Selection Appointment days with clients & agencies are Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays 10 – 3pm and to accommodate our employed Rotarians & community supporters we have a working bee every Saturday (except public holiday weekends) 10.30 – 1.30 where we also unload the donated goods that the volunteer collection teams deliver.

In 2025 we started opening on Mondays 10 – 1.30, so far we have 2 Mondays covered regularly (Rotary Glenferrie & Rotary Balwyn) with Rotary Preston covering one every 2 months. We need all Mondays supported to be able to book client appointments, not just receipt of donations, stock preparation and order despatch.

### 9. What does RIMERN need NOW??

Help with warehouse supervision & operations, goods collection, welfare agency coordination, volunteer recruitment/rostering, client hosting & order fulfilment, ongoing funding and awareness building.

There are many roles, both in the warehouse & remote, that suit volunteers of varying ages, physical abilities and time availability. Supporters can get involved by sourcing good quality wanted goods, by collecting 10c refundables & depositing to RIMERN's credit, by liaising with Councils re beating 'hard rubbish' to good quality homewares, to building relationships with commercial suppliers such as hotels & owners corporations.

### 10. Why should Rotary Clubs join RIMERN?

RIMERN has four benefits to member Clubs:-

- i) A high profile local Community Service project that supports people in the local area & garners local support for volunteering.
- ii) A powerful Environment project that keeps tons of usable items out of landfill and makes us part of the circular economy
- iii) A proven Membership tool: by engaging non-Rotarian volunteers alongside Rotarians they learn more about Rotary, have fun & make committed new members (no one joins Rotary to just fundraise, new members want to make a difference and at RIMERN they do!)
- iv) An engaging PR story for local media, Rotary publications and Club communications plus a conduit into local government and business.

### 11. Why are welfare agencies or programs joining as RIMERN members?

RIMERN is a 'one stop shop' for all the basic needs to set up a small home, saving time & delivery costs from sourcing goods from multiple websites and Op Shops. All clients choose their goods, are treated like valued customers and are always thrilled with the goods they receive. The membership application process & Case Worker training is simple, appointments are efficient and clients can receive their complete list of homewares within days of ordering.

### 12. What does it cost to be an agency or program member in 2025/26?

Bronze membership: up to 10 orders per financial year.... \$200 + GST

Silver membership: 11 to 20 orders..... \$300 + GST

Gold membership: 21 to 50 orders ..... \$450 + GST

Platinum membership: 51 to 100 orders ... \$650 + GST

Corporate membership: up to 300 orders over all organisations' programs \$2,500 + GST.

### 13. Where can we get more information?

Please contact RIMERN Chair, Susie Cole 0414 907 263 or [susie.cole@rimern.org.au](mailto:susie.cole@rimern.org.au) or RIMERN - 1300 924 123.

Please check our website [www.rimern.org.au](http://www.rimern.org.au) & follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with the many things that are happening at RIMERN.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/495145215239091>

