

SustainAbility News January 2022

Coming Events:

Wednesday 26 January
Australia Day livestream event
[humanitix.com/national-Australia-day-broadcast](https://events.humanitix.com/national-australia-day-broadcast)

ESRAG ANZPI Chapter Meeting
Tuesday 15 February 2022 at 7.30pm
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5598376225>

Climate and Peace Forum
Tuesday 15 February at 6pm
[Register here](#)

**February is Peacebuilding and
Conflict Prevention Month**
12-13 February, RI Presidential
Conference –Brazil
23 February: Rotary's anniversary

ESRAG ANZPI Chapter Meeting
Thursday 17 March 2022 at 7.30pm

Links of interest:

[Rotary Calendar](#)
[Australian Government Environmental Calendar](#)
2 February - [World Wetlands Day](#)
6 March - [Clean Up Australia Day](#)

Welcome to our newest members:

District 9685: Robert Coole,
Northbridge Rotary, NSW
District 9705: Hank Doll, Young Rotary
Michelle Duncan, Orange Rotary
District 9790: Roslyn Stewart, e-Club,
Matthew Flaharty, Wodonga Central
District 9800: John Salmon,
Rotary e-Club of Melbourne,
Stephen Sennett, Rotary e-Club of
Melbourne,
District 9810: David Whiting,
Rotary Oakleigh, Clayton,
Huntingdale.

**There are now 211 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, Ted Waghorne: ESRAG Oceania Chair 2021-2022

Welcome to our January newsletter and hoping you had a good summer break. Whilst we all hoped the pandemic was over, along came Omicron keeping us alert to danger and restricting our lives somewhat. However, it is important in 2022 that we keep our focus on how we can support the environment and identify sensible actions we can take.



I commend all those members who participated in the Ambassador training late last year. Please make sure you complete the final tasks so that we can set-up an Ambassador Forum.

ESRAG has implemented a new member data base (imemberdb) that hopefully will soon provide a member interface. Whilst there have been some teething problems it will provide tools to help us connect with members, send out newsletters and promote events.

I am seeking your ideas about how we can support your specific environmental interests. We are seeking help: to prepare ESRAG packs for District conferences; to support our website and social media; or perhaps you would be interested in joining one of our committees. Please contact me with your interest ted.waghorne@canterburyrotary.org.

Our next Chapter Meeting is on the 15th February when our speaker is Zoe Squires. She is working on the Victorians Value Nature goal of the Biodiversity 2037 Plan which aims to increase community connection to, and the number of people acting to protect, nature. With marine and freshwater biology expertise Zoe has insights in government programs and strategies that will be valuable for us to understand. I look forward to meeting you on the zoom meeting.

Ted Waghorne

#australiaday
#reflectrespectcelebrate


Zone 8 Director, Dr
Jessie Harman, will
give us her insights for
the coming year


Master of Ceremonies,
District 9800 Governor-elect
Amanda Wendt

INSIGHTS FROM
The Rotary Foundation
Rotary Safe Families
Professor Graeme Samuel AC
(Honorary, Social and Governance (ESG))
Environment Sustainability Rotary Action Group
Global Grant - trauma life support training to
Palestinian Doctors by their counterparts in Israel


Lisa Edwards
Singer


Josh Piterman
Tenor


Alison Jones
Soprano

Free Livestream event
Australia Day Wednesday 26th January
12 noon till 1:00 pm AEST
Register at:
<https://events.humanitix.com/national-australia-day-broadcast>

**WE'RE ALL PART OF
THE STORY.**

Rotary   **SERVE TO
CHANGE LIVES**

Join Master of Ceremonies Amanda Wendt, Governor-elect District 9800, and hear from our Zone 8 Director, Dr Jessie Harman, who will update us with valuable and exciting information on Rotary's current and future directions.

A line-up of inspirational speakers will talk about Environment and Sustainability, the Rotary Foundation, and news about some amazing training in trauma life support being given to Palestinian doctors.

You will also be entertained by top-class performances from Australian musical artists Josh Piterman, Alison Jones and Lisa Edwards.

Don't miss this wonderful event.

Australia Day, Wednesday, 26th January
12 noon to 1.00p.m. AEST

Register at
events.humanitix.com/national-australia-day-broadcast

February chapter meeting:

Guest Speaker Dr Zoe Squires, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Zoe will speak to us about Biodiversity, what it is, what work she is currently doing in this space, how the Victorian Government is approaching the issue, and most importantly, how Rotarians and Rotary Clubs are able to make a difference.

She is currently working in the Science Impact and Collaboration Team at the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research, working towards the Victorians Valuing Nature goal of the Biodiversity 2037 Strategy.

She is passionate about using all the tools we have at our disposal to address the biodiversity crisis including mainstreaming action for biodiversity and leveraging the impact of our green champions. I am focusing on measuring impact and using and conducting research to inform VVN's strategic direction.

Prior to working at DELWP in this policy and research role, Zoe gained a PhD in Behavioural Ecology from the University of Melbourne. She has worked on a global biodiversity monitoring framework, in environmental education and in marine and freshwater ecology, and is gaining more and more social science expertise including recently completing a micro-credential in Applying Behavioural Science to Create Change from Behaviour Works Australia.

Environment and Climate Change | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

She was inspired by Hans Rosling's work which shows that, although we have a long way to go in addressing global challenges, we can achieve great things. We don't have another 200 years to address biodiversity decline but we have more resources and knowledge than ever before.

[Hans Rosling's 200 Countries, 200 Years, 4 Minutes - The Joy of Stats - BBC Four - YouTube](#)

Links:

[Victorians Valuing Nature](#)

[Arthur Rylah Institute Citizen Science Project Ideas](#)

[Biodiversity New Zealand](#)

[Australian Government Framework](#)

[ESRAG—Biodiversity Task Force](#)

Rotary Adopt A Tree —a project of Rotary District 9675 from Sydney to the Illawarra.

Adopt-a-tree will enable trees to be planted in areas throughout NSW that require regeneration, including fire and flood ravaged zones. You can adopt a tree for just \$5.

Trees will be planted in environmentally impacted areas of NSW. The planting areas will be determined by experts, including Landcare and Rotary will organise plantings under their guidance.

Local schools & clubs will be contacted, encouraging them to become involved. A variety of trees and shrubs will be planted to ensure a balance in the local environment, encouraging native birds and fauna also grow and thrive.

<https://rotaryadoptatree.org.au>



AUSTRALIA DAY 2022 – THE LAUNCH OF ROTARY ADOPT-A-TREE

An Awakening – a report from Rotarians 4 Bees by Ted Waghorne, Rotary Club of Canterbury reprinted from 2020.

The Rotarians for Bees (R4Bees) group was formed by the Rotary Club of Canterbury, Melbourne, Australia, after seeing David Attenborough outline the importance of bees and their recent decline.

Bees, along with other pollinators, are critical to life as we know it; and in Australia there is concern about the sustainability of our agricultural, horticultural and viticultural industries (i.e. food production). Bee numbers are dropping, and even though our island continent and biosecurity keep many diseases away, if varroa mite reach our shores the effect will be serious.



My background is not in science or in ecology, but with an interest in gardening, I have been surprised at the issues facing bee sustainability. What can we in Rotary do to help? As a start R4Bees, formed under the auspices of ESRAG, has highlighted the risks to bees to several other Rotary Clubs / Districts, and is gaining traction.

In 2019, my wife Rosemary and I attended the Rotary International Convention in Hamburg and reported the start-up of the R4Bees group to the ESRAG forum. We also took the opportunity to visit a number of countries in Europe and saw many ideas that could help R4Bees initiate action. Our trip started in England, where there is a push for bee friendly plants, wide flower borders, flower meadows and roadside plantations. Rather than cut grass and make formal gardens, flowers are allowed to grow, bloom and seed. Bees, especially Bumble Bees, are very common - not only at the Chelsea flower show but also in many gardens we visited around London.

The National Trust is very active in nature conservation and are planting bee meadows (you can donate on-line); and the message about the importance of bees is very evident in bookshops too. There is a plethora of bee related titles about garden design, suitable plant species for bees, the risks of pesticides, etc; aimed at all aged groups. Children's books in particular emphasise the importance of bees. One can buy seed packs specially designed to attract bees; bees are on cups, on hand-bags and clothes; and there are bee hotels available too. The message about bees is quite mature in England, and R4Bees could learn a lot by connecting to their official organisations, and local community action groups.



Eight miles of wildflowers have been planted at Rotherham, BBC News

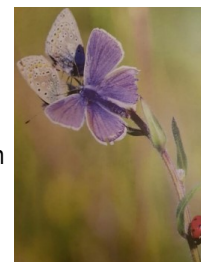
Next we visited Germany, where our main focus was attending the Rotary International Convention. At the ESAG Forum, our presentation on the start-up, vision and plans for R4 Bees was well received. There were 3 local Rotary bee projects on show at the Convention.

The first involved handouts of seeds for bee friendly plants; the second was supplying bees, hives and training to rural Africa; but it was the third that really interested me. The project was called "bee meadows" and involved Rotary Clubs organising payment to farmers, with EU support, to intersperse flower fields with those used for cropping. The bee meadows project came from an expert forum on "Save the Meadow – Agriculture and Diversity" run by the German Wildlife Foundation in 2017. The forum reported on the loss of diversity in Germany over the last 50 years, detailing a severe reduction of wild life, insects, and birds, mainly resulting from expanded cropping.

Even land at the fringes of villages that used to have grazing meadows, vegetable and fruit farms, which supported a large range of insects, birds and animals, has been turned into other uses. The challenge is how to maintain food production whilst recovering nature's lost diversity. One of the papers "[The Disappearance of the Butterflies](#)" by Prof. Dr Josef H Reinhold was particularly interesting. In this he explained that 50 years ago, at the start of his zoological studies, he had an unforgettable experience. He had been amazed at the many different coloured butterflies and other insects in large numbers that were attracted to a light after dark. He said it was difficult to breathe with so many insects surrounding him. This experience was career shaping. He completed his doctoral thesis and has written a number of books on the life cycle of the butterfly.

Now with the reduced numbers and diversity of insect and bird life, with fewer butterflies, hares, or swallows, he regrets he cannot give his grandchildren the same experience. Whilst Germany's ecology suits a rich diversity of insects, recent changes to agriculture, reduced habitat and shifting conditions with climate change are all contributing to the loss of diversity.

The reduction of butterflies over the last thirty years has become starkly evident (evening counts have reduced by 75%, and a number of species have already been lost). Such findings are alarming and there is real concern about how our butterflies will survive into the future. The least impact has been on butterflies relying on parkland, forests and National Parks – where there has been little change. However, in his lifetime enormous changes have occurred in the countryside. There have been significant changes on farms, on the outskirts of villages, and in corridors between villages. On farms, widespread replacement of grassland for wheat and maize crops has occurred, with land consolidation allowing large scale production.



The village has become an island for half the year with little to no vegetation in its surrounds. For the rest of the year it sits within a wide expanse of a monoculture crop. Even where grasslands remain, these are often heavily fertilised and mowed to feed stabled animals, reducing native flowers. To make matters worse, most of the flower gardens and fruit trees previously found at the fringe of the village have also been replaced. Supermarkets now provide fruit and vegetables from global suppliers. The effect of these changes on Butterflies has been enormous, especially as butterflies not only need flowers, but different plants are essential for the caterpillar phase too.

I was fascinated by a further example of Rotarian action relating to Butterflies presented at the ESRAG forum by Dr Chris Puttock. His presentation about the flight path of the Monarch Butterfly across central USA from the Mexican woods.

In good years the trees hold millions of butterflies prior to their flight north. They migrate northwards into the USA and reach the Canadian border after 3 generations. The fourth generation flies back to Mexico to the start of the cycle. No-one understands quite how the knowledge of this return journey is passed through the generations!



The numbers of butterflies have drastically reduced over the years – why?

One reason is the loss of habitat on the flight path. As the butterflies fly north they land, mate and the next generation of butterflies emerge to fly further north. The caterpillars require suitable vegetation (milkweed). However, as in Germany, the mid-west has been turned into a food bowl with large acreages of monoculture cereal crops. To the butterfly, these are like deserts, and unless they can fly beyond the crops or find a local place to support their landing, this could cause their demise.

Along the flight path, a partnership between Rotary Clubs and schools have taken up the challenge to provide suitable gardens for the butterflies. The life of the butterfly has been included into their curriculum and each year children can study these creatures as they land and visit for a while. This initiative is succeeding, improving the chances of survival for these butterflies, whilst at the same time introducing school children to nature.

Whilst both of these examples are of the difficulties facing butterflies, they are symptomatic of issues facing bees and other insects across the world. We need to retain the diversity of nature in all its forms. These simple examples showed me that Rotarians can make a difference. R4Bees will continue to investigate how we can best improve diversity and bee sustainability in Australia. We will seek ideas from all quarters. One of our initial projects is to simply offer flowering plants and information at Farmers Markets and to get pollinator friendly plants into every Rotary Garden across Australia.

Ted Waghome, R4Bees Group; Facebook: RotarianforBees



References

- 1) Why are England's roadsides blooming ? Neil Heath & Gavin Bevis, BBC News
- 2) "Save the Meadow – Agriculture and Diversity" Expert Forum Deutsche Wildtier Stiftung (German Wildlife Foundation), 2017. German; 14 Papers, 3 Debates, 90 pages, numerous diagrams and figures
- 3) 'Das Verschwinden der Schmetterlinge', Prof. Dr Josef H Reinhold Funded by Deutsche Wildtier Stiftung (German Wildlife Foundation) (www.DeutscheWildtierStiftung.de) German, 70 pages, 26 figures, 36 photos, March 2018

Links:

[ESRAG Pollinator Projects](#) [Rotarians4Bees](#) [Monarch Butterflies in Australia](#)

Pollination in the news:

Air pollution reduces ability for butterflies and bees to pollinate flowers and crops. [ABC Science news](#)

According to researchers in a paper published in the journal Environmental Pollution, the pollinators that appeared to be most affected were those species that rely on smell to detect flowers. It also appears that vital pollinators are impacted the most.

Dr James Ryalls and Dr Robbie Girling from the University of Reading said they found that those groups of pollinators that are most important [like] solitary bees, bumblebees, honey bees, were most affected in general, but some species within those groups may be less affected than other species, depending on how heavily they rely on odour cues."

Dr Ken Walker, senior curator of entomology at the Museum of Victoria, says some insects are what's known as oligolectic — they rely on a single species for food. It's estimated that roughly one in three spoonfuls of food we eat has involved pollination in its production, Dr Walker said.



Focus on— regenerating oyster reefs in Moreton Bay

Redcliffe Sunrise Rotary Club members are helping transform Moreton Bay one oyster shell at a time. The Club's Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group is collecting oyster shells from Morgans Seafood at Scarborough and working with environmental not-for-profit Ozfish to regenerate oyster reefs in Moreton Bay.

Vice-President Colin Scobie says the club, which houses its blue collection bins at the Clontarf waste facility thanks to Moreton Bay Regional Council, eventually hopes to expand the program to include other wholesalers and restaurants.

From Clontarf, the shells are taken to a special area at the Port of Brisbane, where they sit for six months to ensure they are bio-secure before being washed and put into special cages and then placed in designated regeneration areas in the bay under the guidance of Ozfish.

The Central Moreton Bay chapter of Ozfish hopes to restore 100ha of shellfish reef over the next 10 years.

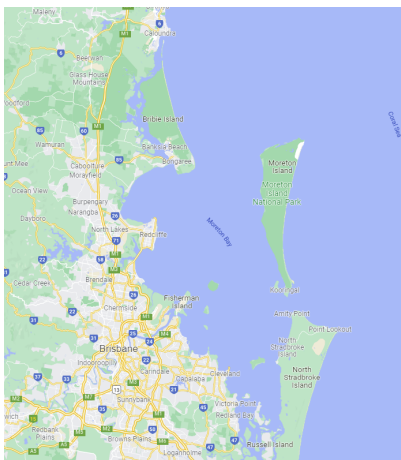
Colin says oysters are a natural filtration system which improves water quality and the benefits of collecting empty shells were many.

"It stops the shells going to landfill and it restores the fish habitat," Colin says. "There's a whole cycle of habitat and the oysters improve the habitat for fish. "As well, the basket reefs are good at stopping storm surges and act as a buffer between the ocean and the mangroves."

He says the shell-filled baskets are only placed where there are already oysters growing, to encourage oyster spat to lodge and create new colonies.

Find out more on the [Rotary Club of Redcliffe Sunrise Facebook page](#).

Contact Colin Scobie at ccscobie@gmail.com



It's Time Foundation update:

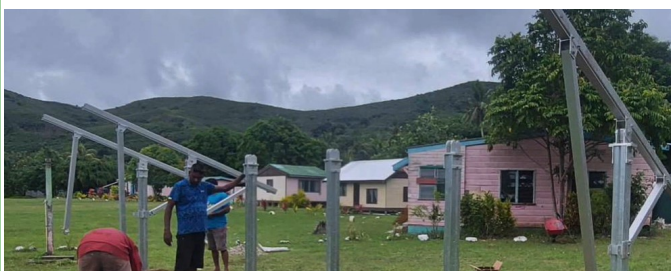
Rob Edwards, OAM, Chair of the It's Time Foundation, member of the Rotary Club of Corrimal and ESRAO Oceania executive member has provided the latest report on installation of solar panels to two schools on the island of Naviti, Fiji. The goods have been waiting for over 12 months at Suva for an installation which like everything else has been delayed due to COVID. In early December the installation went ahead.



The panels, inverters and other equipment travels by truck from Suva to Lautoka, a journey of about 3 hours. At Lautoka it is loaded into small boats known as fibres for the trip to Naviti Island and the village of Soso.



The first installation was at the Ratu Apenesia Memorial School where the solar array, inverter and simplified battery system were installed. The school now has 24 hour power and the kids there will now have the opportunity for a modern education, plus we will save some carbon and reduce plastics as well.



Inserting the Clenergy mounting systems.



The outback inverter system



The solar array.

Part of the agreement with the schools involves students learning about the environment, collecting plastic from the beaches and monitoring power usage in the classrooms. This informs them of climate change and helps them to understand their role in collecting rubbish from the beaches.

[For more information](#)

[Watch the video](#)

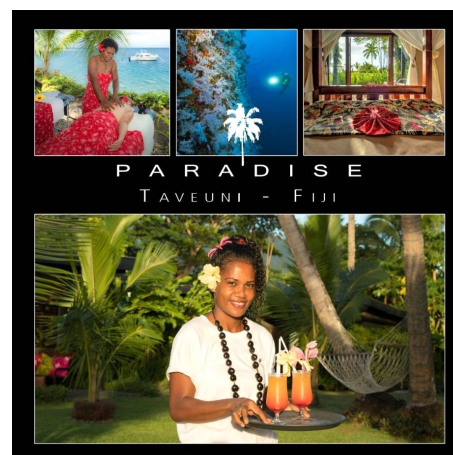
The "It's Time" Fiji raffle: This is the 2nd raffle and will be drawn 30 April. Congratulations to Cherie from Rotary Keilor East who was the 1st prize winner.

Paradise Taveuni Resort is giving you the chance to win a great holiday on the beautiful Fijian island of Taveuni. The Fijian people will make you feel welcome like no other.

Your holiday, for two people, valued at AUD5000 includes:

- * 5 nights in an air conditioned room, right on the waterfront, near some of the world's best diving.
- * Full cooked breakfasts, lunches and two course dinners (drinks not included).
- * AUD\$1000 cash toward travel or spend as you wish (potentially replaced by air tickets)
- * Ground transfers to and from the airport (flights not included).
- * Rainbow Reef snorkelling experience.
- * Tropical garden tour.
- * Visit an Its Time school solar project and meet the kids that benefit.

The prize is fully donated and the funds raised are split:
50% to a Rotary Club for their projects, you [can choose the Rotary Club to support](#).
40% to Its Time Foundation remote islands solar school projects.
10% to Plastic Free Oceans protecting wildlife and the health of us all.
The prize is transferable to friends. Tickets are \$20 or 2 for \$36.



<https://itstime.org/raffle-list/>

Bring Back the Buzz

The Rotary Clubs of Canterbury, Balwyn, Kew and Eltham are working together to co-host this evening and planning for a sit down two course dinner for 200 people and at least that number again **on line**.

Our outstanding guest speaker presenters will be talking about providing habitat for bees and other pollinators in an urban environment (including nature strips, streetscapes, residential and public gardens and rooftop or balcony gardens) and agricultural regeneration in rural settings.

You will be entertained and fascinated by the Guest Speakers:

1. Rotary International President Ian Riseley explaining the importance of Environment Sustainability as our newest seventh area of focus,
2. Costa Georgiadis: ABC Gardening Australia Program Host and Rotary Environment and Sustainability Ambassador speaking about habitat in all settings,
3. Alick Osborne: Rotarian and CEO of Seasol talking about regenerative agriculture and major future advances,
4. Fiona Sutton-Wilson, CEO of the Earthwatch organisation in Australia... announcing some incredible initiatives of Earthwatch and seeking Rotarians and their families to become involved as citizen scientists.
5. Fiona Chambers, CEO of the Wheen Bee Foundation and great friend and partner to Rotary and Rotarians for Bees will explain their amazing programs, Bee Friendly Farming and how Rotarians can be part of the new future.

This promises to be a wonderful, informative and exciting evening in the very capable hands of Jonathon Shepherd as MC with exceptional raffle and auction prize opportunities.

Please register and join us for this great night through the [Trybooking link](#) which explains all details.

What's the Buzz about Bees?

['What's The Buzz about Bees' event for Pollinator Week - YouTube](#)

For more information please contact John McCaskill at the Rotary Club of Canterbury, District 9800.

john@jmcresources.com.au

Mob: 0414 477 444





BRING BACK THE BUZZzzz

You are invited to
CELEBRATE THE VITAL ROLE OF BEES AND POLLINATORS

Date: Tuesday, 15 March 2022
Time: 6.30pm for 7.00pm start
Venue: Green Acres Golf Club
Elm Street, Kew

GUEST SPEAKERS

IAN RISELEY	Past President Rotary International
ALICK OSBORNE	CEO Seasol
FIONA SUTTON WILSON	CEO Earthwatch
COSTA GEORGIADIS	TV Presenter and Rotary Environment Ambassador

LIVE AUCTION CONDUCTED BY KEW ROTARIAN JONATHAN SHEPHERD

COST PER PERSON - \$50
Includes Welcome Drink on Arrival
TWO COURSE DINNER
Alcoholic Beverages at Bar Prices
(Double Vaccination required)

ONLINE ATTENDEE - \$10
OR DONATE ON THE
TRYBOOKING SITE

 **Rotarians For BEES** 
AN INITIATIVE OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CANTERBURY

BOOK EARLY
TICKETS AVAILABLE
<https://www.trybooking.com/BTSMD>

Funds raised go towards the NGIV School Garden Project and education about pollination

For info contact: John McCaskill
JohnMcCaskill@canterburyrotary.org





Moreton Bay Habitat Restoration event. This is socially responsible activity

SUNDAY 6th Feb at Cnr Endeavour Esplanade & Oyster Point Parade, Scarborough at 6.30am
Breakfast followed by informative walking tours of the Marine Environment
[6.30am to 11am]

 **ESRAG**
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ROTARY ACTION GROUP

<https://esrag-moretonbay.square.site/events>

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Quarterly Webinar of 3 x 15 min. Impactful presentations + Q&A

Climate & Peace Forum

15 February
6:00 PM AEST UTC +11

A new voice for climate and peace



Our team:

Chair—Ted Waghorne, Rotary Club of Canterbury
Rob Anderson, Rotary Club of Canterbury
David Dippie, Rotary Club of Keilor East
Faye Kirkwood, Rotary Club of Caulfield
Fabienne Nichola, Rotary Club of Camberwell

Former chair— Pat Armstrong, Rotary Club of Doncaster
Ian Dempsey, Rotary Club of Mitchell South
Rob Edwards, Rotary Club of Corrimal
Lesley McCarthy, Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington
Thelma Raman, Rotary Club of Sydney

Team Members needed:

We are seeking volunteers to work in our admin teams to undertake IT, Social Media and Project tasks.

Do you have the enthusiasm, skills or experience to participate in one of these teams?

For the website, experience in WordPress is helpful and for communications/newsletters and events, MailChimp experience is helpful.

We are also seeking a Social Media team to post and share across

FaceBook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn. Is this you? E: esraganzpi@gmail.com

The Project team is seeking people to collect, organise and prepare materials for the 6 key focus areas and in the Zone Countries of focus projects. E: Solatube@bigpond.com



Use Qantas Points to offset your household footprint At the [Qantas store](#), you can use reward points to do this.

Offset Your Home and Car

When it comes to sustainability we know that together, small changes can have a big impact.

Use Qantas Points to offset your household emissions, including fuel, electricity and gas usage, or pay with cash and earn 10 Qantas Points per \$1* spent on your offset.

Your contribution will be used by Qantas to purchase carbon offset credits, which support verified carbon offset projects in Australia and around the world.

Your carbon offset contributes to:

- Restoring rainforest at headwaters to the reef, Atherton Tablelands, Queensland
- Winds of Change - Renewable energy, Asia
- Fire Management, Arnhem Land, the Northern Territory
- Rainforest regeneration, Worldwide
- Efficient cooking practices—cleaner cook stoves in Malawi

Understanding time zones:

UTC = GMT: Coordinated Universal Time or Greenwich Mean Time

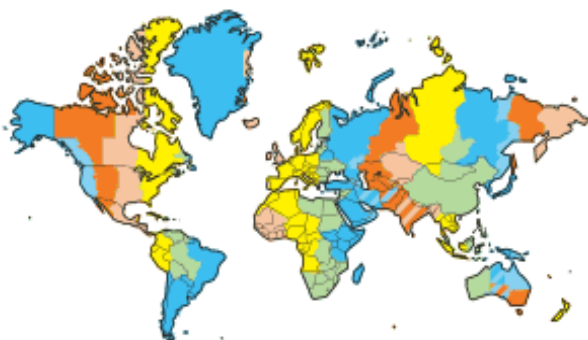
AEDT = DST: Australian Eastern Daylight Time is UTC +11

AEST: Winter // non Daylight Savings Time I UTC +10

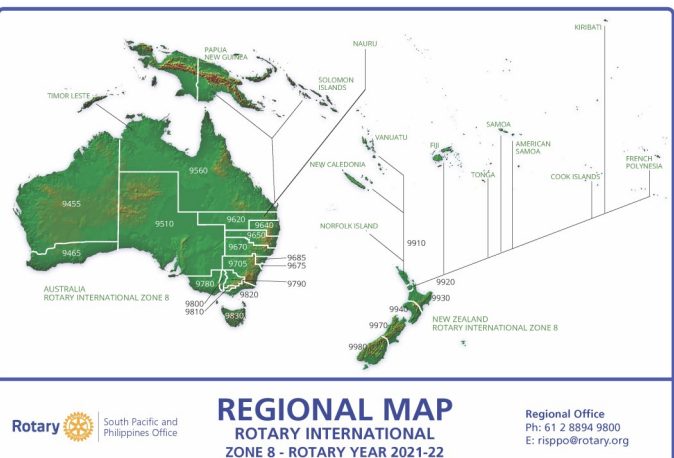
PST: Pacific Standard Time UTC -8

NZDT_DST: New Zealand and Pacific is UTC +13

www.timeanddate.com/time/map/



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I am a proud ESRAG member. Join me?

